CPA returns to full operation. PAGE 2
December is target date for Japan Travel Bubble. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 185

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

'Life-or-death decisions' loom

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Come Sept. 30, if U.S. Congress fails to extend expiring legislations that temporarily increased the amount of Medicaid funding for the CNMI and other U.S. territories, that would trigger what's being called a "funding cliff" that would greatly affect many in the CNMI and other U.S. territories who avail of Medicaid.

Muña

That was the warning raised by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña on Tuesday in an opinion piece for Washington, D.C.-based news publication *The Hill*, where she wrote about the looming "Medicaid funding cliff" in the CNMI that would greatly affect CHCC's daily operations.

In it, she warned that, without congressional action to

See LOOM on Page 4

JGO HEARING
Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios appears before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee in response to a subpoena. Palacios said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is the only one who can answer some of the questions about his expenditures of public funds and travels that are the subject of the JGO investigation.

Story on Page 4

Two more positive cases

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Guam's COVID-19 death toll now at 171; 73 hospitalized

Two more incoming travelers tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 258. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. also announced that there are currently no active hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

In an announcement yesterday, CHCC said the two positive travelers were identified by travel screening and confirmed posi-

See CASES on Page 4

Adopt a median and help make our roads safer for pedestrians and motorists

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By ALEX BK YOUN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Alex BK Youn is president of AC Pacific LLC-I Love Saipan Stores, the largest retail and gift store operator on Saipan. As a major stakeholder in the industry, he serves as a member of the Tourism Infrastructure Reboot Committee for the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

We've seen or read about unfortunate auto-pedestrian incidents on our islands too many times, many of which may be avoidable with proper medians or crosswalks. Here at home, we

See TOGETHER on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:59pm, Sept. 16, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **80.5%**

Days since last community transmission: **176**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,819
Fully Vaccinated:	28,955
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,817
Fully Vaccinated:	4,396
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	783

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	12,772	202	12,974
Recovered	10,588	54	10,642
Active	1,959	202	2,161
Deaths	170	1	171

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	256	2	258
Traced via Travel Screening	219	2	221
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

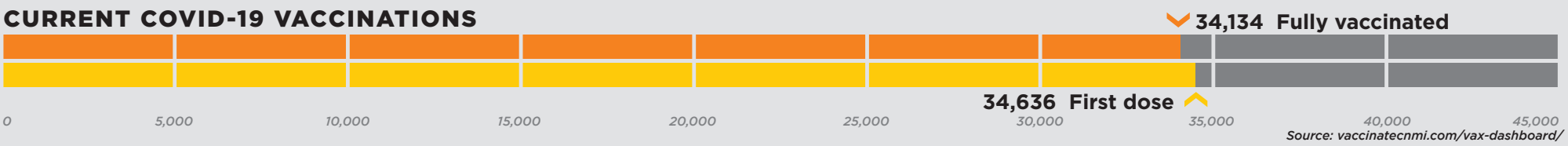
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

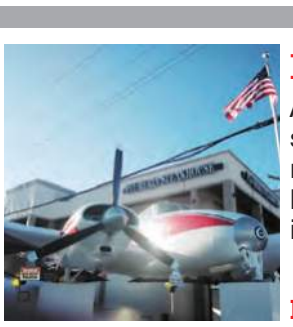


Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

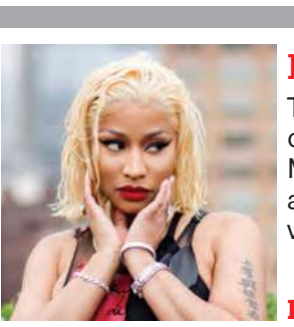
BUSINESS
The Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas hosts a sampling of authentic Japanese dishes.

PAGE 12



BUSINESS
After a three-month soft opening, Plumeria Steakhouse finally holds a grand opening.

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE
The White House offers to answer Nicki Mina's questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

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Local

CPA back to full operation

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has returned to full operation, restoring furloughed employees to their regular 80 hours, thanks to the recent allocation of $2.2 million from the American Rescue Plan Act.

According to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the funds were used to restore employee hours from 72 to 80 hours. The allocation came right in time for the expected surge in Travel Bubble visitors forecasted by the Marianas Visitor's Authority.

King-Hinds

"CPA employees were first to be furloughed and last to be restored with regards to their work hours. These funds allow us to finally get everyone back to work full time. Now that we are in the process of resuming our tourism industry, we need our employees back to work so that we can fulfill the requirements of our local and federal mandates," King-Hinds said.

According to an earlier CPA press release, CPA has received $2.2 million in ARPA funding from the CNMI government, to be used to lift austerity measures, restore employee hours, and bring CPA to full operational capacity.

The $2.2 million allocated to CPA through the central government is required to be used specifically for the restoration of employees' work hours from August 2021 through fiscal year 2023 and to bring CPA to full operational capacity.

The funding allocation also coincides with an expected increase in international flights.

CPA received the $2.2 million in ARPA funding on Aug. 17, and returned to full operational capacity on Aug. 23.

Back in February 2020, CPA implemented austerity measures to ensure that air services could continue to be provided to the public, that CPA and the remaining airlines could continue to remain solvent, and for the continued safe operation of CPA airports despite the precipitous drop in the number of arriving tourists due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures included the reduction of employees' work hours in order to lower CPA's operational costs.

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December is target date for Japan Travel Bubble

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority aims to launch the Japan Travel Bubble as early as this December, with the first step being to inform the Japan Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Health about the CNMI's interest in reopening the route between Japan and the CNMI.

According to MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo, December is the ideal target date to launch the Japan Travel Bubble based on the current rate of vaccinations in Japan.

"We were advised [by MVA Japan office] that December of this year is probably a good target date as vaccination rates in Japan continue to [accelerate], as well as how the Japan government is also controlling the cases there. We understand that the Japan government has not been pushing to entertain any Travel Bubble with any other destination right now because they're really trying to control their COVID-19 cases there. In the past several weeks, they've had over 20,000 in a day of confirmed cases," she said.

Iakopo said about a week ago, TRIP Japan ad hoc committee chair Nick Nishikawa started discussions with the MVA Japan office on how they will carry out the first steps in establishing the Japan Travel Bubble.

"We were discussing how we should start conversations with the Japan market. We wanted to start having these conversations because when we started TRIP Korea, it took us several months to actually get to where we are at now. We just wanted to reach out to all of our travel partners in Japan, and also our partners here, to start having the conversations to create a TRIP plan for Japan," Iakopo said.

Ivan Quichocho, TRIP Korea ad hoc committee chair, agreed that December is a great target date but the first step is really to establish communication between the CNMI administration and the Japan administration to officially let them know that Saipan wants to reestablish the Japan market through a Travel Bubble.

"Given the pace of vaccinations currently in Japan, we all agree that it's not going to be within the next few months. December's a very good target to shoot after. A lot can happen between now and then. But we do need to really establish, first off, the communication with [Japan's] Ministry of Transportation, and understand how they are looking at outbound travel and overall travel for the country. At that point, we will link in COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez to have these key discussions as it will be another government-to-government discussion. Hopefully, we will have a good understanding of where the Japan government wants to go and the pace they want to go, then start setting down concrete plans for the reopening of the Japan market," he said.

MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo said during a previous MVA board meeting that it is important to aggressively push forward with the Japan Travel Bubble sooner rather than later while the CNMI has the advantage of being the safest travel destination in the world right now.

"We only have one thing that we can sell right now, and that's how safe our community is. That's a marketing tool that nobody else in our region can boast of. Let's use that marketing tool and be aggressive to establish the other travel bubbles so that we can get the tourists coming in in order to boost our economy," she said.

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Palacios says Torres should appear before JGO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 'Only Torres can answer using 235,000 gallons of water for one month at his residence, other issues'

Palacios

Torres

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said Wednesday that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres should testify before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee because, at the end of the day, he is the only one who can answer all the questions or allegations about his expenditures of public funds and travels that are the subject of the JGO investigation.

At his closing statements during his appearance before the committee, Palacios said he cannot answer some questions, among them how 235,000 gallons of water were used within one month at his residence. Palacios said that what he can tell the committee is that such amount of water use is "extraordinary unusual" for a residence, even if there are 10 people using that water.

He said the matter that the JGO is looking at borders on misdeeds, misappropriation of funds, waste of government resources, abuses, and allegation of criminality—not very pleasant issues to discuss particularly for him as lieutenant governor, and with Torres as the one being investigated.

He concedes that the committee's oversight authority is critical for good governance but only the governor can answer some of the questions raised at the hearing, such as why Torres thought it a good idea to go to the Northern Islands with Robert Harrington, of YouTube channel Deer Meat for Dinner, to expose the frontiers of the Commonwealth—in the midst of a lockdown and a global pandemic.

Palacios said he didn't "spill the beans" on anybody, but there will be people who would say so. "You guys are intelligent enough," Palacios told the JGO members, adding that the committee already has those "beans" by having boxes of information that they have acquired through an Open Government Act from the Department of Finance.

"The beans are there. I didn't bring it. It's public records. And you have the right to discern that, and look into the matter whether there is fraud, abuses, [and] waste," he pointed out.

Palacios noted that there are some people saying on social media that he is throwing the governor under the bus. "I did not throw him under the bus. He ran in front of the bus," he said.

But, in order for Torres to come out of the issues unscathed or at least minimize the damage to his reputation, he has to be the one to come before the JGO Committee and clarify matters, Palacios said.

"And I hope that he does. I really do," he said.

Palacios pointed out that Torres had stated that he has nothing to hide, that he will answer to the JGO Committee at the appropriate time.

"The buck stops here," he said.

Palacios concedes that he should have been more specific and not signed or approved some of Torres' first-class travels but, at the end of the day, those funds that Torres used for his travels are his discretionary funds or operations fund that were appropriated for his office and only Torres has the expenditure authority for those funds. "What I am saying is that even if I signed them [or not], I can assure you those travels would still have occurred," he said.

Palacios said that, although he has his personal opinion about the issues and that there were red flags, he cannot say "yes" or "no" whether Torres abused his authority.

"But I sincerely hope that, in light of what has come up and what has been discovered, he can explain. Why he travels first-class? I don't know. Maybe it's more comfortable for him," Palacios said.

At the hearing, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) pointed out that the records they have reviewed show that Torres incurred tens of thousands of dollars for utilities at his private residence that were paid using taxpayer dollars. For just the three-year period between November 2018—right after Super Typhoon Yutu—to May 2021, the records of utility billings totaled approximately $100,000 altogether. Sablan said that Torres' monthly bills for power and water have routinely exceeded anywhere from $1,000 a month to as high as $4,000, $6,000, and even $16,000 for one month.

The lawmaker said it is their understanding that during the period in review, Torres has a commercial piggery operating on his private property. Sablan said it appears from the records that taxpayers may have been paying the power and water costs associated with that piggery on the governor's property.

Sablan presented Commonwealth Utilities Corp. bills for Torres from March to April 2019 that shows water usage of approximately 264,000 gallons for total water costs of $15,309 for one month. From May to June 2019, the bills appear to show water usage of approximately 233,000 gallons for a total service charge of $13,535, Sablan said. From July to August 2019, the bill shows water usage of approximately 186,000 gallons for a total water service charge of about $10,800.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LOOM

From Page 1

extend the Sept. 30 expiration of legislations that temporarily increased the amount of Medicaid funding for U.S. territories, the CNMI could see a steep drop in federal funding allocation for the CNMI's Medicaid program from $62.3 million in fiscal year 2021 to $7.2 million in fiscal year 2022. Another change is that the matching rate from the federal government will also drop from 83% in fiscal year 2021 to 55% matching rate in fiscal year 2022.

The 55% matching rate would mean that the federal government would reimburse the CNMI just $0.55 for every $1 of Medicaid services availed in the CNMI, with the local government having to match the remaining amount.

The "Medicaid funding cliff" that Muña writes about is similar to a "fiscal cliff," which according to an online definition is defined as "a situation in which sudden changes in government spending and tax have a big and sudden effect on a country's economy." In this case, the severe and sudden drop in federal Medicaid funding for the CNMI would have severe effects on the services CHCC can offer and the number of patients it can serve.

"We will be forced to make life-or-death decisions; how many patients can be served, what benefits are offered, how much providers are paid, and many other systemic supports," wrote Muna.

"When care is not provided at home on our islands, many islanders will travel to the continental United States, away from their family and community, to seek care at a higher cost to the U.S. taxpayer. All of this, of course, during the COVID-19 pandemic," she added.

Muña wrote that the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed in July a bipartisan bill known as the Supporting Medicaid in the U.S. Act of 2021. If passed by the Senate and signed into law by President Joe Biden, five more years of additional Medicaid funding for Puerto Rico and eight more years for the U.S. other territories will be authorized.

"If approved by Congress and signed into law by President Biden, the U.S. territories' Medicaid programs would be on solid ground for the near future and provide a runway for the health programs on the islands the opportunity to expand current services to improve health outcomes," wrote Muña.

Muña ended her opinion piece with a call to action for Congress to "treat all U.S. citizens equitably," and to improve the lives of the 3.5 million Americans that live in U.S. territories.

"Congress has the power to treat all U.S. citizens equitably when it comes to Medicaid and the health care services the program provides. However, the current funding and reimbursement structures underfinance care in these jurisdictions where the need is immense, and population health challenges are significant. The moment is now for Congress to improve the lives of 3.5 million Americans," wrote Muña.

When asked for additional thoughts and comments on her opinion piece, Muña said Wednesday that a majority of the CNMI avails of Medicaid and that the severe cut in funding to the CNMI will put CHCC in very difficult positions.

"Seventy percent of our patient population [avails of] Medicaid, and [this is increasing] with the pandemic. If we're spending money without reimbursement [from the federal government], we have to make the tough decision to choose [what] services we can afford to provide," said Muña.

Muña's opinion piece for *The Hill* can be found at https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/572227-devastating-decisions-loom-for-the-territories-if-congress?rl=1.

CASES

From Page 1

tive through fifth-day and arrival testing on Sept. 15. The two are quarantined and are now being monitored. CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for those who were in closest contact with the two individuals.

In related news, the Joint Information Center in Guam reported the island's three latest COVID-19-related deaths and reported that 73 are currently hospitalized due to COVID-19. Of the 73, 42 are unvaccinated, 13 have unknown vaccination status, and one is ineligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

The JIC in Guam reported Tuesday the island's 169th and 170th COVID-19-related deaths, and the 171st on Wednesday.

The 169th COVID-19-related death was a 52-year-old male with unknown vaccination records and unknown underlying health conditions. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Sept. 13 and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital.

The 170th COVID-19-related death was a fully vaccinated 84-year-old male with underlying health conditions. The man died at the Guam Regional Medical City. The JIC additionally reported that the man was a known positive case.

The 171st COVID-19-related death was an unvaccinated 65-year-old female with multiple underlying health conditions. She was pronounced dead at the Guam Regional Medical City Wednesday.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero on Tuesday offered her condolences, and, like many times before, continued to urge the Guam community to do everything it can to stop the spread of COVID-19.

"[Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio and] I are saddened by more news of precious lives who have succumbed to this virus, and we pray that their family and friends find healing and comfort in these difficult times. The greatest degree of anguish and torment that follows death is felt by many, especially by those who have lost loved ones to this awful disease. We continue to plead with everyone to do everything necessary to stop the spread," she said.

TOGETHER

From Page 1

have medians on some of our streets, but most of them are not properly marked or maintained, making it equally dangerous to both pedestrians and motorists. It's enough of a challenge crossing the street in broad daylight. Imagine the dangers of doing so at night with poor lighting and unmarked medians.

Medians should be highly visible—raised, painted a bright, reflective yellow, and well lit. It signals drivers to slow down and gives them definitive markers between oncoming lanes.

An article published by the Federal Highway Administration reported that there is a 46% drop in pedestrian accidents on roads with medians, pedestrian crossings, and marked crosswalks. That means almost half of the accidents can be avoided. Medians have also been found to reduce vehicle crashes by 15%.

In addition to increasing safety, medians also have aesthetic benefits and provide opportunities for landscaping, much like the colorful blooming flowers planted at the Atkins Kroll intersection.

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers has been proposing initiatives that would transform our islands into world-class destinations. A big part of that goal includes making our roads and facilities safer for residents and tourists. Properly marked and maintained medians are essential elements of the Complete Streets program. They will improve safety on our streets and provide better access—by foot, bike, or vehicle—to local businesses and sites.

To support the Complete Streets program, the GCEA is proud to announce the launch of its Adopt-A-Median program and is calling on companies, volunteer groups, and other members of the community to help paint medians in our villages. If you're wondering if this is the right program for you, take a look out your office window. Is there a median that is in desperate need of a coat of paint? When you take your child to school, is there a median or curbs that could use a refresh?

With help of a few friends and a few buckets of paint supplied by the GCEA, you could get the job done within hours. A small commitment can bring great fulfillment and noticeable change. Our community has come together to make our villages better places to live by repairing public restrooms, improving park facilities, and painting basketball courts. We can do it again. Together, We Can adopt medians and help save lives.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Median program or to sign up, contact the GCEA at gceacnmi@gmail.com. Visit cnmieconomy.com and engage with them on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy).

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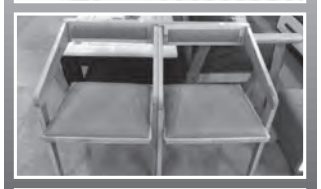

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SHEFA deadline set

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance office announced yesterday that the deadline to submit supporting documents is on Sept. 30, 2021 (Thursday). All documents must be complete before submission. Office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm. ***(PR)***

MVA Saipan office hours

The Marianas Visitors Authority Saipan office will be temporarily closed from 12pm to 1pm until Sept. 30, 2021. The office will remain open weekdays (except official holidays) from 8am to 12pm and from 1pm to 5pm. For more information, call 664-3200 or email info@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

COVID-19 testing at MCS

Mount Carmel School will host the staff from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to facilitate monthly COVID-19 testing for its students and employees. The first COVID-19 testing event will be on Sept. 25, 2021, from 8amM to 3pm, in the Maturana Building. While the testing event is not mandatory, parents are highly encouraged to register their child for the monthly event in order to keep its school community safe. To register, visit covidtesting.chcc.health. For more information visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com or call 234-6184. ***(PR)***

Free webinar on supporting sexual violence survivors with disabilities

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, in collaboration with the CNMI Sexual Assault Response Team, will be hosting a free two-part webinar called "Improving Services & Response: Supporting People with Disabilities who Experience Sexual Violence" on Tuesday, Sept. 21, and Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, via Zoom.

Both parts of the webinar will start at 8:30am and end at 12pm (Chamorro Standard Time). The webinar training will be led by Leanne Mull, co-director of Blue Tower Solutions and chair of the Responding to Victims of Disabilities Committee, Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council.

Mull will cover topics to help improve understanding of, and direct service responses to, victims and survivors with disabilities who experience sexual violence.

To register to attend, fill out the online form https://us-02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qy_wqJAzRKGN-fZqUdnuwFA to receive a link for the webinar.

For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@EndViolenceNMI.org.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing violence or abuse, call 911 for emergencies and call the 24/7 Karidat Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100 to speak to an advocate. ***(PR)***

William M. Fitzgerald, Esq.
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Email: fitzgerald.law@gmail.com
Attorney for Administratrix

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF TAE HYANG BANG, Deceased.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0209
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISRATRIX and NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 19, 2021, Mari Chung Cepeda has been appointed and qualified by the Commonwealth Superior Court as Administratrix of the Estate of Tae Hyang Bang, deceased. ALL CREDITORS and persons having claims against the Estate or against the deceased are required to file the same, with proper vouchers attached, with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court, within **sixty (60) days** of the first publication of this notice, or be forever barred.

DATED this 14th day of September, 2021.
LAW OFFICE OF WILLIAM M. FIZGERALD

/s/ William M. Fitzgerald
William M. Fitzgerald (F0110)
Attorney for Administratrix

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. FY 2022 Budget

IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

GOLD SPONSOR
Staywell has signed on to be a gold sponsor in the first Ronald McDonald's House Charities Golf Tournament that will soon be hosted by McDonald's Guam and Saipan. Here, Cathy Matsumoto, right, Staywell Saipan branch supervisor, presents a $5,000 check to Marcia Ayuyu, center, owner/operator of McDonald's Saipan, representing Staywell's commitment as the fundraising tournament's sponsors. At left is Amber Weston, Staywell's sales & marketing representative. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three sue supermarket for alleged labor violations and trafficking

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of three employees are accusing a supermarket in San Antonio of labor violations and trafficking.

Md. Ashiquzzaman, Mir Fozle Mehedi, and Md. Sazedul Islam, through attorney Joseph Horey, are suing Mir Corp., which foes business as Toha Supermarket, for allegedly failing to pay them the wages they were promised and for allegedly confiscating their passports so they couldn't work anywhere else.

According to the lawsuit, Ashiquzzaman was employed by Toha as a butcher from July 2016 to December 2018. Mehedi was employed as a maintenance worker and farmer from September 2016 to June 2017. Islam was employed primarily doing various jobs at Toha Supermarket from 2015 to March 2021.

The three allege that Mir Corp. paid them at a rate of less than $6.05 per hour, which is significantly lower than the minimum wage imposed under the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, and significantly lower than promised in their CNMI-Only CW-1 visa petition.

"Plaintiffs allege that while employed with Toha, their regular and overtime wages were lower than the amount prescribed for the CNMI at the time by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007. They allege that Toha's failure to pay lawful wages to plaintiffs was willful," Horey stated.

The former Toha employees are seeking relief in the amount of their unpaid minimum wages, their unpaid overtime compensation, and additional equal amount as liquidated damages, and attorney's fees.

As for the trafficking allegations, the plaintiffs allege that Mir Corp. confiscated their passports in an "attempt to prevent or restrict…plaintiffs' liberty to move or travel in order to maintain their labor services."

In addition, Mir Corp. allegedly collected recruitment fees from plaintiffs in the amount of at least $10,000 upon the representation that they would work at good jobs and earn salaries of up to $2,000 per month and obtain permanent residency.

2 from Saipan named to SNHU President's List

MANCHESTER, NH—Noah Pohl and Kina Sablan, both from Saipan, have been named to the summer 2021 President's List of the Southern New Hampshire University.

Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

SNHU is a private, nonprofit institution serving more than 150,000 learners worldwide. SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. ***(PR)***

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Court suspends civil lawsuit proceedings for Art Man driver

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has granted Art Man Trash and Recycling's request to temporarily suspend civil lawsuit proceedings while its co-defendant, the driver of one of the company's vehicles that was involved in a fatal crash, is undergoing criminal proceedings.

Last Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio ordered a limited stay of proceedings in the civil lawsuit filed by Khorshed Alam, the personal representative of Raju Miah, one the victims in the fatal crash, and Rommel Irang against Art Man Trash and Recycling and Eduardo T. Fabia.

"The stay temporarily suspends all the civil proceedings until the resolution of the associated criminal case, except for discovery that is time-sensitive," she said.

According court documents, the matter stems from the traffic accident back in February that led to the wrongful death, negligence, and vicarious liability civil claims at issue before the Superior Court, but that also led to an associated criminal case against one of the drivers, Fabia.

Due to the ongoing criminal investigation, Fabia's counsel informed the Superior Court that the defendant would invoke his Fifth Amendment rights and privilege in this civil case. As a result, defendants moved to stay the civil proceedings, until the criminal case is resolved.

Neither party objected to a limited stay, as applied strictly to Fabia, to protect his Fifth Amendment rights.

"The issue before the Superior Court was whether a stay of proceedings should also be applied to…Art Man Environment Corp. The Superior Court analyzed the facts and circumstances of the case under the Ninth Circuit's Keating standard, which provides five factors for courts to consider before ordering a stay of proceedings," the order stated.

Fabia and his employer, Art Man, were named as defendants in the civil lawsuits of Khorshed Alam, personal representative of the late Raju Miah, and Rommel Irang.

On March 15, 2021, Irang filed a separate complaint alleging negligence against Fabia, and vicarious liability against Art Man.

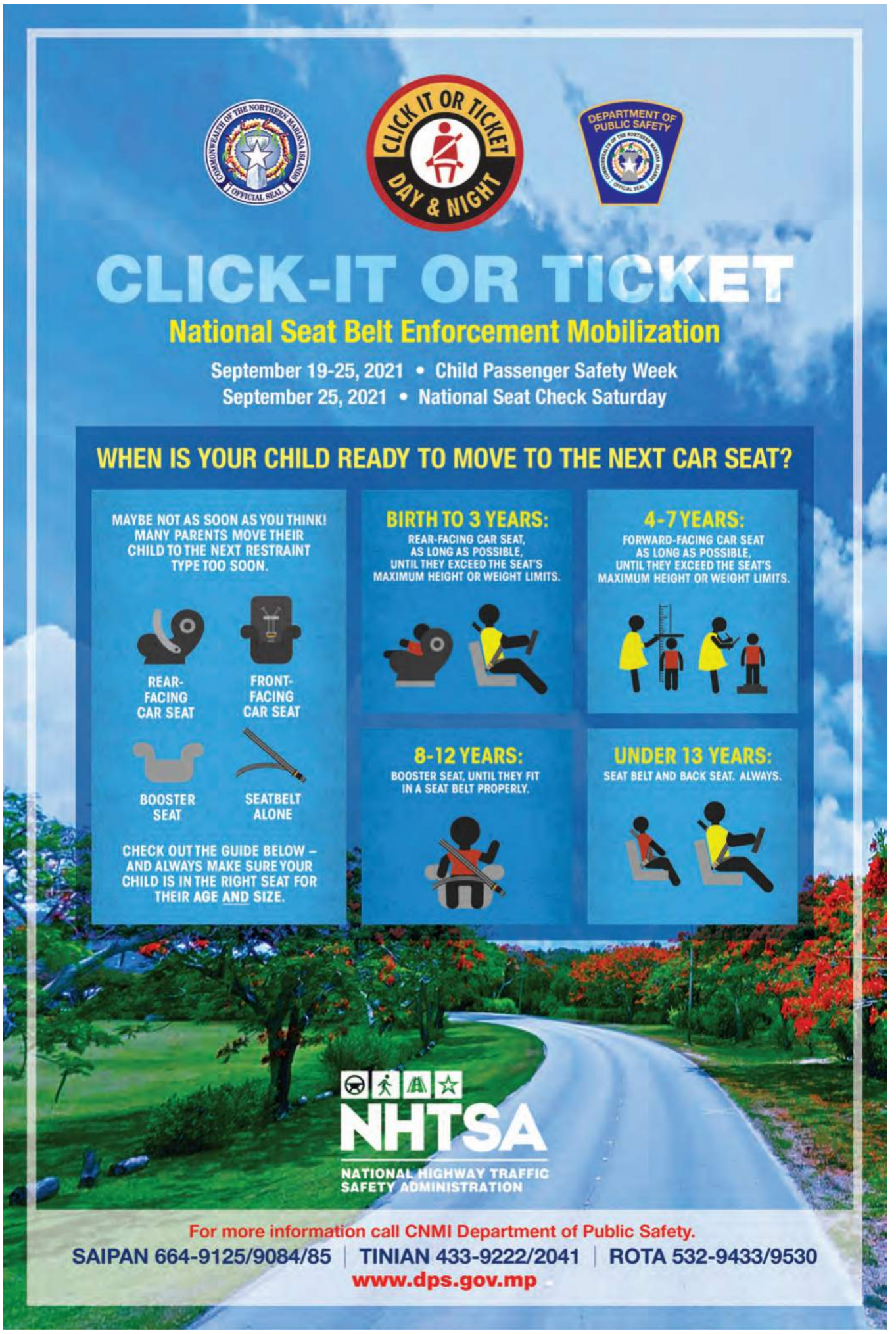
On March 25, 2021, the court granted the stipulation to amend the case title to reflect both plaintiffs.

Fabia, 49, was the driver of the garbage compactor truck that collided with a Honda Ridgeline pickup truck at the Puerto Rico intersection on Feb. 1, 2021.

According to DPS, the two passengers in the pickup truck were on the bed of the Honda Ridgeline and were thrown out of the vehicle during the collision. Both were rushed to the hospital where one of them was pronounced dead on arrival. The other passenger was treated and admitted for serious injuries.

The pickup truck passenger who died was Raju Miah, while the other passenger, Rommel Irang, sustained serious injuries. The pickup's driver/operator, Quin C. Manglona, was treated at the hospital and discharged.

Fabia was charged by the government with homicide by vehicle, traffic signal violations, speeding, and reckless driving.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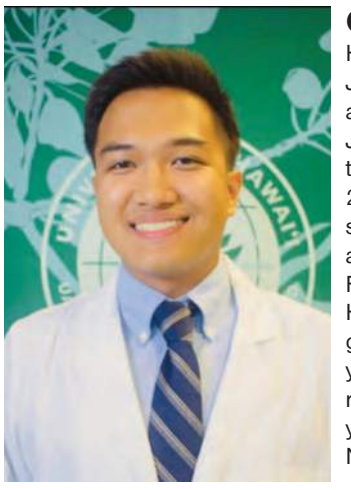

CONGRATULATIONS!

Hats off to medical student Joshua Calixterio Mostales and his fellow researchers at Johns Hopkins for receiving the American Geriatric Society 2021 Presidential Best Abstract Award for his research abstract titled "Early Outcomes Following Implementation of a Hospital-Wide Geriatric Surgery Pathway." Thank you for your commitment to medical research. We are so proud of you! With love, from Dad, Kate, Naomi, JC, and Chloe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SOCIAL SERVICE
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Free résumé writing workshop

Are you looking to enhance your résumé writing skills to land you that new job opportunity? Do you want to stand out among others in the competitive job market?

Register for a free Résumé Writing Workshop at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021, from 10am to 11:30am. Seats are limited to 15 participants. Workshop is free and open to the public. Those 18 years old and older are invited to register.

Registration is required. To sign up, register at https://forms.gle/WG8o8W3UiEjoq2FX7, stop by the library, or contact computer programmer Joey Songsong at (670) 235-7322/7323 (READ). Computers are available. Participants are welcome to bring their own personal laptop. Free printing service for up to three résumé copies after the workshop.

Workshop topics will cover the following:

- Basic résumé writing skills and etiquette
- Cover letter basics
- Writing targeted résumé
- Formatting techniques
- What employer look for
- Interview day tips

This project is also made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act grant award. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 185

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

While the nation sinks deeper into debt, the rich keep evading taxes

A new Treasury Department report finds that the United States is losing $163 billion per year because of tax evasion by the top 1% of earners. The story is mind-numbingly familiar: phenomenally rich people finding new and creative ways to boost their wealth even more by cheating the rest of the responsible, taxpaying public.

The $163 billion that the richest 1% evade annually accounts for a whopping 28% of all unpaid taxes by Americans, according to the report by Natasha Sarin, deputy assistant Treasury secretary for economic policy. That total lost revenue accounts for 3% of gross domestic product and is equal to all of the taxes actually paid by the lowest-earning 90% of taxpayers, she added in a Sept. 7 report.

It's not as if the rich were hurting and needed the money. In fact, while the rest of the nation shut down and unemployment skyrocketed during the pandemic, the richest 1% found ways to profit to the tune of $7 trillion.

"Our pain has been their gain," inequality researcher Chuck Collins, author of "The Wealth Hoarders," told CBS News in March.

And they keep gaining more all the time, inflicting additional pain on tax revenues and boosting the bill that ultimately must be paid by the rest of the country. For the price of a relatively few accountants specializing in tax evasion, the richest of the rich save more than enough money to buy additional yachts, private jets, shoreside villas and whatever other luxury their hearts desire. They force policymakers to "choose between rising deficits, lower spending on important priorities, or further tax [increases] to compensate for lost revenue—which will only be borne by compliant taxpayers," Sarin wrote.

Budget and staffing cuts, many of which date back to Republican anger over Internal Revenue Service monitoring of the supposed tax-exempt, nonprofit status of various tea party organizations during the Obama administration, have decreased the agency's ability to detect and prosecute high-dollar tax evaders. Not just anyone is trained to parse the thousands of pages of complicated tax filings submitted by high earners and big corporations, Sarin says. It takes expensive, qualified specialists who are at least as talented as the people concocting evasion techniques for the other side.

The 2017 tax package engineered by then-President Donald Trump and the GOP-controlled Congress was an obvious boondoggle for the rich from the day it was proposed, and the middle class has been paying a steep price ever since. The tax cuts never made financial sense, but they make even less sense now that it's clear that they only served as a springboard for the ultra-rich to concoct additional ways to fleece the country.

Deficit hawks and fiscal conservatives in the GOP ranks should be livid. But that would first require them to do the math, which recent history shows has never been their strong suit.

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We need to think about less, not more

By SCOTT BURNS
The Dallas Morning News

Scott Burns is the creator of Couch Potato investing and a longtime personal finance columnist for The Dallas Morning News.

Afghanistan: Is there anything we can do beyond the Finger-Pointing Olympics we've been witnessing?

Can we learn something?

We know one thing for certain. The entire Middle East is a long tunnel with no cheese.

It was a long tunnel yesterday. It is a long tunnel today. It will be a long tunnel tomorrow.

It has been so for centuries, not decades. Name the period, and Western culture—not just us Americans—can be noted only for its delusional, self-righteous and destructive approach to different cultures.

Over the past 20 years, according to a study Brown University study, the combined cost of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq has been $6.4 trillion, a mind-boggling figure. Other figures differ, of course, but the cost has always been in the trillions.

To put the trillions in some perspective:

$6.4 trillion would provide Social Security benefits for all retirees, retiree spouses and children of retired workers as well as all disabled workers for more than six years. Yes, years of income for millions of Americans.

It would have done much the same for Medicare, Medicaid and Affordable Care Act subsidies—pay for about six years of benefits. Again, years of benefits for millions of Americans.

$6.4 trillion would have provided about $28,000 to each of our nearly 230 million licensed drivers. That's enough to buy a new Prius. It's also the expected cost of the coming Tesla Model 2.

So it's time to ask some questions.

Could we have done anything differently?

I believe the answer is yes.

Then why didn't we?

Because we're stuck in a thinking habit.

We are literally wired to think about more, not less. Equally important, that change in thinking would have needed to start earlier than Sept. 11, 2001.

When, you ask?

Not long after the first OPEC oil embargo in 1973.

That's when we had an opportunity to make a simple decision. We could have found a way to consume less oil, not more. We could have decided that we would not be held hostage by an unstable area with massive oil reserves.

By 1976, we even had a blueprint for how to do it.

That's when Amory Lovins' paper "Energy Strategy: The Road Not Taken" was published in World Affairs. In it, he demonstrated that the least expensive energy we could find was in energy efficiency, not more drilling. The lowest cost "reserves," he demonstrated, weren't in new oil and gas wells, tar sands or more strip mining for coal. The reserves were in new energy-efficient trains, trucks and cars. They were to be found in remodeled houses, office buildings, improved industrial processes and more efficient distribution methods.

Rather than spending borrowed money to project military power in the Middle East, we could spend billions to mobilize domestic energy efficiency. The money would be spent at home. Jobs would be created at home. American workers and consumers would enjoy the benefits.

What's not to like about that?

Nothing.

Lovins, a physicist and MacArthur genius grant recipient, was quickly treated as a deranged tree-hugger. The oil and gas industry, intent on drilling more, criticized his idea as naïve and unrealistic. The auto industry, which had absolutely nothing to offer that would reduce energy consumption, agreed.

Result? America doubled down on more. We took the easy, obvious path. We chose to drill more and spend an ever-increasing fortune protecting our access to oil reserves in the Middle East.

It was a colossal mistake.

"The issue," Lovins told me 20 years ago, "isn't the supply of energy, it's about the delivery of hot showers and cold beer in the cheapest way." (He said that, by the way, from his house in Old Snowmass, Colo., a structure so energy efficient that it set a world altitude record for passive solar growth of bananas.)

The difference between Lovins and conventional thinking is that Lovins saw an elegant solution using less. Most of us, including our leaders, think about everything in terms of more. (You can watch a video update on his ideas and how energy efficiency is working here.)

The good news is that we can learn our way out of this. Even better, we can learn about it from American researchers in cognition. "Subtract: The Untapped Science of Less" is a brilliant little book. In it, Leidy Klotz, an associate professor at the University of Virginia, explains how our culture forecloses thinking about solutions with less. Instead, it fosters thinking about solving problems with more.

Appropriately, Subtract is a short and easy read. It has just 254 pages of text. But it also has 33 pages of reference notes for deep divers.

What's most important here is that this isn't a finger-pointing book that damns American culture. It's cross-cultural research about how we humans are wired to think and how our thinking is pushed toward more and away from less.

But we can learn to "think different."

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

American citizenship means fighting for the common welfare, not just liberty

By LYNN SCHMIDT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and Editorial Board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Founding Fathers may have declared independence from Britain in 1776, but the real work of putting together the new government did not take place until the Constitutional Convention met between May and September of 1787 in the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia. After the debate and work ended, and the delegates were leaving the hall, Elizabeth Powell, who was waiting in the crowd, is said to have asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, doctor, what have we got? A republic or a monarchy?" Franklin responded, "A republic, madam, if you can keep it."

The word republic comes from the Latin phrase res publica, meaning "thing of the people" or the public property. A republic is a form of government in which a state is ruled by representatives of the citizen body. The philosophy that defines a republic is republicanism. Republicanism emphasizes several tenets: liberty, the importance of civic virtue, the benefits of universal political participation, the dangers of corruption, the need for separate powers within government, popular sovereignty, and a healthy reverence for the rule of law.

Sept. 17 marks Constitution Day, the anniversary of the Constitution's ratification. It got me thinking: With all this talk of personal liberty, have we forgotten the importance of civic virtue?

The term liberty appears in the due process clauses of both the Fifth and 14th amendments. As used in the Constitution, liberty refers to freedom from arbitrary and unreasonable restraint upon an individual. Liberty from the government does not mean that citizens can just do whatever they want. The Founders understood this and tied liberty to the second tenet: civic virtue. Civic virtue is imperative for the success of any community. Closely linked to the concept of citizenship, civic virtue can be described as the dedication of citizens to the common welfare of their community even at the cost of their individual interests.

When the debate over masks and vaccines is viewed through the lens of liberty and civic virtue together, there really shouldn't be any debate. We should be acting with the common welfare of our communities in mind.

There are plenty of examples of those who are not being their best selves. Many of these examples are taking place in schools and school board meetings. Here are a few more examples of "adults" putting their interpretation of personal liberty above civic duty and the welfare of our children:

■ In California, a Sutter Creek Elementary School teacher was allegedly assaulted during an argument over a parent's child having to wear a mask. "The teacher was bleeding," Amador County Unified School District Superintendent Torie Gibson told a local television reporter. "He [the teacher] had some lacerations on his face, some bruising on his face, and a pretty good knot on the back of his head." Gibson said the male parent verbally assaulted the school's principal when his daughter walked out of a school building wearing a mask. When a male teacher stepped in, the situation escalated and a physical altercation happened, resulting in injuries.

■ Near Austin, Texas, Eanes Independent School District reported two events involving anti-mask parents. A parent allegedly grabbed the mask off of a teacher's face. And in a separate incident, a teacher was repeatedly yelled at by a parent who complained about not being able to hear what a teacher was saying because the teacher was wearing a mask, which the parent wanted removed.

■ A Fort Lauderdale High School father entered a school maskless. The father and his daughter argued with a resource officer over the school's mask mandate. Another student began using her phone to obtain a video recording of the event. According to the police report, when the father realized the student was recording the incident, the father swiftly grabbed the female student's hand, twisted it and pushed her against a gate. Officers pulled him off the student. The father has been charged with aggravated child abuse.

■ In Pennsylvania, a Central Bucks County school board member resigned over death threats he claims to have received over the battle of whether his public school district should require masks in elementary schools.

■ A high school student spoke at his Rutherford County, Tennessee, school board meeting. The student shared with the board the story of his grandmother, a former teacher in the district, who died of the coronavirus. The student said she died "because someone wasn't wearing a mask." Anti-maskers sitting in the crowd laughed and interrupted him.

The pandemic has caused Americans to lose their collective minds. Adults should be leading by example and teaching their children about the partnership between liberty and civic duty. Community leaders, elected officials, gatekeepers and parents should start calling out those whose behavior is beyond acceptable. Far too few Americans believe in—and practice—civic virtue. It is time to start telling those who don't that this is not who we are.

Will we be able to keep this republic, as Franklin declared? Unless we can call out those who have seemingly forgotten civic virtue, I am not so sure.

Muslim Army chaplain recalls Pentagon terrorist attack aftermath

By DIANE BELL
The San Diego Union-Tribune

"Unimaginable" was how Army Chaplain Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad described the carnage at the Pentagon after militant Islamic terrorists commandeered and crashed an American Airlines jet into the U.S. military complex on Sept. 11, 2001.

In 1994, he had become the first military chaplain of Muslim faith in the U.S. armed forces and was on duty at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center when the terrorist attack occurred.

Five-member teams of psychologists, social workers and chaplains were immediately dispatched to the Pentagon, assigned to work around the clock in eight-hour shifts.

For three weeks, Muhammad administered to first responders, search and rescue workers, law enforcement officers, Pentagon employees, medical personnel and anyone who sought pastoral counseling or stress debriefing as recovery operations took place and remains were removed from the crash site.

Within a day, a large U.S. flag was erected at what was left of the crumbled, scorched wall of the Pentagon where the plane had crashed, Muhammad recalls. The smell of jet fuel lingered for weeks. He describes the ensuing organized chaos as akin to a fire drill 100 times beyond the intensity people might have taken part in at a school or office building.

"I was the only one at this time who wore a symbol on my uniform that was a (Muslim) crescent moon," rather than a Christian or Jewish symbol, Muhammad says. Otherwise, his garb resembled other military uniforms.

Asked if his faith made him a target at that volatile time, he immediately responds: "Absolutely not. I was an Army officer and a chaplain—a chaplain who happened to be Muslim."

Today the chaplain, 68, who retired from the Army in 2012, is continuing to do his mental health and spiritual counseling at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in La Jolla.

At the 9/11 crash scene, he and his colleagues were in far less hospitable quarters. They set up services in the parking area by the crash site. A sign was posted identifying their makeshift quarters as a chaplain tent. Anyone was welcome to come in to pray, to seek solace or simply to sit and rest.

"We talked to anyone who wanted to talk to us," the Muslim chaplain recalls. "I did my Friday services there—one was inside the Pentagon; one was outside the Pentagon. Everybody was in shock. Everybody was dismayed," says the father of seven who had studied for his master's degree in counseling education at San Diego State University in 1977-79. He subsequently added a graduate degree in social work at the University of Michigan.

He was glad to be standing by when people needed someone there to comfort them. "I was fulfilling a role. Everyone pulled together."

It angered Muhammad that people of any faith could do a deed as terrible as this. He was upset that the al-Qaeda terrorists were identified with his religion. He knew their actions weren't representative of Islamic teachings, "but I also knew they would be associated with Islam," he says.

"For those of us in the Muslim community, there was a lot of fear and anxiety as to what the aftermath would be," he says. "Mosques were desecrated. Some businesses were destroyed or burned. Muslim organizations in America had their offices ransacked by law enforcement. ... There was a lot of chaos, confusion, anger."

President George W. Bush helped soothe tempers by visiting a Washington, D.C., mosque and stressing that the terrorists were not practicing Islamic teachings.

"The Muslim community in America was very grateful for that," Muhammad says.

He took part in a formal memorial service on Oct. 11, 2001, with Bush, members of the U.S. Cabinet, Joint Chiefs of Staff, legislators and thousands of onlookers.

"If I had my choice, I wouldn't have done it," Muhammad recalls, but the Army Chief of Chaplains had asked him to give a prayer.

He later told independent documentary maker David Washburn, who produced a video about his 9/11 experience, that while he did not want to take part, his participation "was in the best interest of everybody, including Muslims. It was really important for a Muslim to be there ... a Muslim in uniform."

With a sea of solemn faces looking on, Muhammad read a short scripture passage from the Quran. "I can't remember how I chose it," he told me. It apparently struck the right tone because Muhammad reports he got no backlash.

The chaplain went on to serve in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. He retired from the Army in 2012 as a lieutenant colonel after 23 years in the service.

When he began as a chaplain in 1994, the reported number of Muslim military members was about 5,000, although he suspects the unofficial number was double that because many chose not to be open about their religion. Today there are 15 Muslim chaplains throughout all branches of the U.S. military, he says.

After his military service, Muhammad began working at the Veterans Administration in Baltimore, then transferred to the San Diego VA in 2017 and took up residence in Fallbrook.

As a mental health counselor and spiritual guide at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center here, he often deals with cases of post-traumatic stress disorder and moral injury—a term that describes the suffering of those who either see or do something contrary to their core values, something they couldn't prevent and can't forget.

Time has taken Muhammad from the disaster at the Pentagon to the pandemic and devastating outbreak of COVID-19. Once again, the Muslim chaplain finds himself ministering to Americans during a major crisis.

Business

‘Taste of Japan’ samples dishes from 12 restaurants

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas held a sampling of authentic Japanese dishes during its “Taste of Japan” event last Monday at Aqua Resort Club.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to support Japanese citizens and their descendants living abroad, the event saw 12 Japanese restaurants serve a sample of their signature dishes to the invitation-only gathering.

Host Hiroko Tajima, who is also the vice president of JSNM, said the 12 participating Japanese restaurants mostly prepared what is called *washuko*, traditional Japanese food that the UNESCO had designated as Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2013.

Aside from *washuko*, there were also servings of foreign dishes that are western and have Chinese origins that were prepared for the Japanese palate.

The Taste of Japan started with a live demonstration by Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef Zen Tomokane on how to filet an *onaga*, a prized fish known in western parlance as sea bream. Guests were then treated to freshly cut onaga sushi with a specially made *nikiri* soy sauce. Sushi slices of “wonder woman” fish that were prepared earlier were also served.

After the live demonstration at the Kevin’s The Prime Rib & Seafood Restaurant, guests were then ushered to the Costa Terrace Restaurant were a boatload of numbered dishes in varying container sizes greeted them.

The samples enjoyed were cold ramen from Aiko’s Deli, *matcha* panna cotta from Aqua

See TASTE on Page 13

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef Zen Tomokane demonstrates how to filet an onaga, a prized fish known in western parlance as sea bream, during last Monday’s “Taste of Japan” at Aqua Resort Club. MARK RABAGO

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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-GOV-168

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM OCTOBER 8, 2021

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION ROOF REPAIR & COATING

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Roof Repair & Coating* in Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available on **September 10, 2021** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours. **This project will require US Treasury Listed Payment and Performance Bonds.**

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Conference Room No. 3 at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation located in Navy Hill, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST September 27, 2021.** Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be sumitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST October 1, 2021.** All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM October 8, 2021**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-GOV-169

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM OCTOBER 15, 2021

RENOVATION OF BUILDING 1365 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DISABILITY CENTER

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Renovation of Building 1365 for the Commonwealth Disability Center* in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **September 17, 2021** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours. **This project will require US Treasury Listed Payment and Performance Bonds.**

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site, Building 1365, located in Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST October 4, 2021.** Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be sumitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST October 8, 2021.** All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM October 15, 2021.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Francisco C Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Guests enjoy onaga and "wonder woman" sushi.

"Wonder woman" sushi was also served.

TASTE

From Page 12

Resort Club, *shiratama mocha zencai* from Casa Urashima, shrimp tempura from Furasato Restaurant, beef *tataki* roll from Gentle Brook Restaurant, beef curry from Grotto Restaurant, seared salmon roll from Himawari, beef bowl from Kinpachi, *shabu-shabu* pork salad from Kuri-ya, *karaage* basket from Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, *menchi katsu* from Salty's Grill & Café, and octopus ball from Uruya.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was one of dozens of government and private sector official that were in attendance. He said Taste of Japan was a perfect opportunity for Japanese restaurants on Saipan to showcase their signature dishes.

"The food here was excellent. We all grew up here and a lot of our dishes are basically from Japan like sashimi, crackers, cookies. It's really good," he said.

Japanese Consul Kazuhiko Ono said the event shows that the Japanese government continues to look after the welfare of its citizens abroad. The event also gave guests a sample of the rich culinary tradition of the country, he said. "If you have an opportunity to visit Japan, you can try a number of [more] Japanese dishes," he said.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which include project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists. There are no changes from the previous QAP which included capital needs assessment, limiting developer fees, and income averaging.

NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on 10/11/21, 9:00 am at NMHC's Main Office in Garapan, Saipan. Copies of the draft 2021-2022 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) are also available at NMHC's Main Office in Garapan, Saipan and on our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Interested persons wishing to express their views on the QAP may do so either by attending the public hearing or by submitting comments to NMHC by 4:30 p.m. on 10/08/21. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, face-masks must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 • Email: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 21-0005
INSTALLATION & RETROFIT OF COURTYARD
OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE
BLDG O.

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Installation and Retrofit of Courtyard outdoor learning space, Bldg. O, Saipan Campus.

The bid specifications and Scope of Work packet may be pick up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Friday, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Electronic packet, please send a request to Anita Camacho @ ppmo@marianas.edu.

A Pre-bid meeting and Site visit is scheduled for 09:00am October 01, 2021, NMC Conference Room, attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Hard copies Bid submission
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P,
As Terlaje Campus Saipan
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, October 08, 2021, ChST

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through US Department of Education, Emergency Assistance to Institution of Higher Education Grant, award no. P938T190005. In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

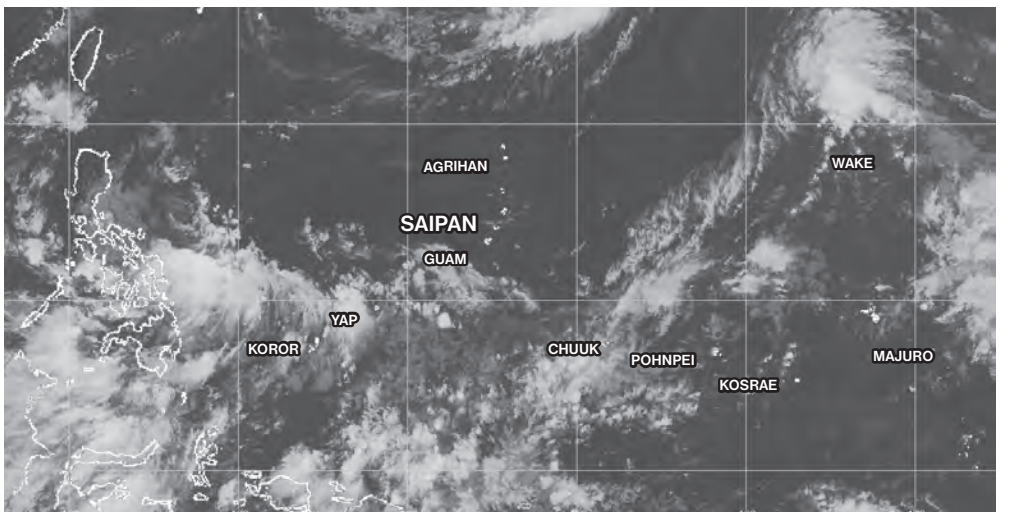
/s/Anita Camacho
Procurement Manager

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:27 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies with widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms moving through the Marianas Waters. These are associated with the combination of two surface troughs and an upper-level low west of Wake Island. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 4 feet composed of a 3 foot east-northeast trade-wind swell, a 1 to 2 foot south-southeast swell, and wind waves of about 1 foot.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Morning clouds	81 / 88 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	81 / 87 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Pohnpei	Partly sunny	76 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	80 / 87 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	81 / 86 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:20 AM	3:45 PM
Saturday	-	3:20 AM	4:34 PM
Sunday	-	4:17 AM	5:18 PM
Monday	-	5:12 AM	5:58 PM
Tuesday	-	6:03 AM	6:36 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	50 / 59 °F
Beijing	High level clouds	65 / 91 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	81 / 88 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	73 / 83 °F
London	Partly cloudy	63 / 79 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	61 / 78 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	80 / 91 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	49 / 67 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	80 / 86 °F
New York	Morning clouds	70 / 83 °F
Osaka	Mostly cloudy	76 / 91 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	64 / 78 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	75 / 86 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	67 / 86 °F
Salem	Rain	55 / 68 °F
San Francisco	Mostly sunny	56 / 70 °F
Seoul	Morning clouds	66 / 86 °F
Tokyo	Morning clouds	77 / 88 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	67 / 89 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:27 AM	High Tide	1.73
10:58 AM	Low Tide	-0.11
6:19 PM	High Tide	1.89
11:53 PM	Low Tide	1.15

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	3
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	3
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

CORRECTED

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public landis described as Tract 21662 containing an area of approximately 44,350 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency.The lists of officers for Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency are Hitoshi Nakauchi,President, Nonuhiko Ikemoto, Secretary/Treasurer and Nick Nishikawa, as General Manager.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Nick Nishikawa.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operating a Hotel Resort Complex.

The term of the public land lease agreement is 40 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the JoetenDandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in ***Garapan, Saipan***.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, ***September 25, 2021*** at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN INTENSION PARA U MA'ATKILAI TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñihapara u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi halum henerål pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Tract 21662 ni konsisisti kåsi 44,350 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigigi hålum Garapan, iya Saipan. I kopian pättin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan i website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee sa i Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency. I listan ufisiåt siha para i Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency si Hitoshi Nakauchi, Presidenti, Nonuhiko Ikemoto, Sekritåriu/Tresurâru yan si Nick Nishikawa, komu Henerål Maniya.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginin manegosiuni as Siñot Nick Nishikawa.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha' na rason nu i kinalamtin Hotel Resort Complex.

I tema nu i maproponina kontråtan atkilon sa kuarenta (40) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' såkkan gi durântin teman kontråtan i` atkilon mapega gi putsientunu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i aplikao na putsientu nu i Business Gross Receipts gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan,Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iyaSongsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi ***Garapan, iya Saipan.***

vii. I Sekritårian Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguinprinoponi siha ginin i manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di ***September 25, 2021*** gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONG REEL MÁNGEMÁNGIL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowowa rongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap loll Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóókka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálló bwe Tract 21662 ebwe bwáábwe 44,350 reel square meters, elapelóng áreeghus, iye e lo Arabwal, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u Mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Pommwol school atkkilóón nge Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency. List-al officers ngáli Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency nge Hitoshi Nakauchi, President, Nonuhiko Ikemoto, Sekkretóóriyo/Treasurer me Nick Nishikawa, bwe General Manager.

iii. Pommwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. Nick Nishikawa.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl Hotel Resort Complex.

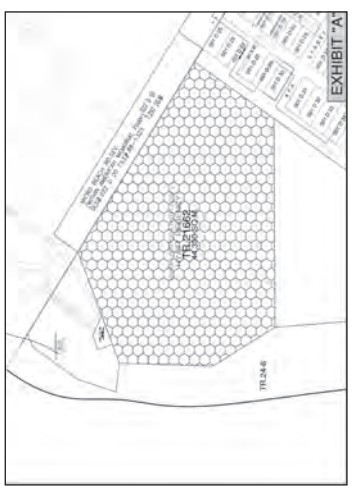
Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóónol Faluweer Toulap nge fááigh ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráághatol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage of Business gross Receipts" loll mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiwelingáli atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me ***Garapan, Seipél.***

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommwiye re siiweli sángi schóókka re mwuschel wool ngáre mmwalil ***September 25, 2021*** me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáreTchiliyól.



Bank of Hawaii's Hagatna branch. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BOH sells building in Hagatna

» Bank's Hagatna and Harmon branches remain open

GUAM—Bank of Hawaii announced yesterday the sale of its building in Hagatna, Guam, at 134 W. Soledad Ave., to the property investment subsidiary of Citadel Pacific Ltd.

The sale of the building aligns with the bank's plans to build a new West Pacific regional headquarters in Tamuning, which will include a new branch, the Guam Commercial Banking Center, Guam Residential Loan Center, Guam Auto Finance, an expanded call center operation and its administrative offices. Construction is scheduled to start in late 2022.

Bank of Hawaii has been serving the Guam market since 1961, and both of its existing branches in Hagatna and Harmon (at 1340-C N. Marine Corps Dr. in Tamuning) will continue to serve the community during normal business hours:

- Special hour for *man'åmko*, at-risk individuals and their caregivers: Mondays-Fridays: 9am to 10am.
- General banking hours: Mondays-Fridays: 10am to 4pm.

Bank of Hawaii's new West Pacific regional headquarters will be located at Chalan San Antonio between the Personal Finance Center and Shell Gas Station in Tamuning. The new Tamuning Banking Center will be a "Branch of Tomorrow" and provide customers the conveniences of its more modern locations, such as easy-deposit ATMs, Wi-Fi and private meeting rooms. ***(PR)***

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on September 24, 2021 from 9:00am to 11:30pm at Saipan World Resort – Sunflower Hall.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of September 24, 2021

IV. Action Items

- **a. Review and Approve the Proposed 2022-2026 DD Basic Grant State Plan Goals & Objectives (FY2022 & FY2023 Work Plans)**
- **b. Ratify the Approval of the Updated CDD & AT Program Logos**

V. New Business

- **a. Saipan First Responder Training Update**
- **b. Meet Your Policymaker Event**
- **c. 2021 NDEAM Activities**
- **d. CNMI-UCEDD Community Needs Assessment**
- **e. Disability Network/Tri-Agency Logo**
- **f. Disability Network Partners Logo**

VI. Miscellaneous

VII. Next Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Robert Mendiola
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-21-032

SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) FOR POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for a turn-key design and implementation (Design, Supply and Installation) of SCADA system at its Primary Power Plant (Power Plant No.1), Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The award of this project is under the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-032, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 13, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 22, 2021** to manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-036

Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $25.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-036, Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 15, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 23, 2021** to Manny Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John C. Mafnas, Contracts Officer at john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 069

Opening Date: September 10, 2021
Closing Date: September 23, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant: Mechanic**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Four (4)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. The Trades Assistant: Mechanic assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.

Duties:
- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities.
- Monitoring Plant systems as assigned;
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies and setting work safety barriers for protection.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment.
- Takes readings and collects data.
- Documents equipment readings.
- Prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities.
- Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting.
- Operating incinerators.
- Oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work. Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am –4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: **employment.applications@cucgov.org**

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 071

Opening Date: September 15, 2021
Closing Date: September 28, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistants, Vegetation Line Clearing**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power T & D**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,000.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**2 year Contract**
POSITION(S):	**Eighteen (18)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power T & D Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Performs vegetation clearing activities
- Assess all aerial power lines and determine the need to clear any vegetation encroaching on the lines.
- Consult with CUC's designated project manager on need to de-energize utility lines prior to performing line clearing work.
- Prepare job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Clear all vegetation and/or obstacles within 15 feet from aerial power lines.
- Cut all grass, greenery and foliage surrounding the base of the power pole so that it is not longer than 6 inches in height and with a minimum circumference of 10 feet around the base of the power pole.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project is complete, dispose of all grass, greenery and foliage debris resulting from clearing.
- Gathers, cleans and maintain tools and equipment in proper working condition
- Provide weekly progress, project objectives and work scheduled updates.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma/GED or ABE Program AS.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Specialized equipment relevant to area of assignment; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer service; Preparing reports and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Plumeria Steakhouse finally holds grad opening

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After a three-month soft opening that started in June, Plumeria Steakhouse across DFS in Garapan finally held a grand opening last Thursday that not only officially launched the restaurant on the CNMI's food scene but also as a way of thanking its new and repeat customers.

The official opening of Plumeria Steakhouse also paves the way for the restaurant to expand its services to customers, said long-time businessman and owner Steve Jang. "The grand opening celebration is also our way of thanking the community for the good response they have given us about our food, service, including the entertainment we offer."

Starting a restaurant during a pandemic may sound challenging and impossible even, but not for Jang, who see Plumeria Steakhouse as an opportunity to give the CNMI community a different kind of steakhouse—one that entertains customers with delicious food and choreographed dancing by servers. "…Yes, it was a challenge opening a business during this time but I always looks at the positive side of things," he said. "Opening Plumeria Restaurant has been in the works since three years ago. I didn't have the finances…but I made it slowly and surely and that is why we are here today. The pandemic is tough for everyone but it didn't stop me to work on this goal continuously."

The inspiration behind the name Plumeria Steakhouse, which had its soft opening in June, is the plumeria tree that used to stand outside the restaurant building. "Aside from plumeria being our island flower, the name has a sentimental value to me because there used to be a plumeria tree right at the side of this building where the airplane is now. Due to an auto accident, the tree was knocked down. I want to keep the memory of that tree as it was one of the oldest plumeria trees on this island—very old, big, and beautiful," Jang said.

Jang explains that he purchased the vintage plane, a 1958 twin engine bonanza located outside the steakhouse, because he wanted to have his own icon. "The plane has a historic value to the CNMI as it was one of the planes that flew around the CNMI after World War II. The former owner of the plane was a Marine soldier and he would fly that plane to Pagan, Tinian, Goat island, to name a few," he said. "I plan to put up a plaque beside the plane so people will know its history. …It is part of CNMI history and I eventually want to donate it to the CNMI Museum."

According to Jang, Plumeria Steakhouse's specialties include its signature ribeye steak, special seasoned pork ribs, different kinds of pasta, fresh-from-the-oven thin-crust pizza, different kinds of salad, and appetizers.

"The good food that we serve is a reflection of the close relationship of our team. When we prepare and cook the dishes that we offer, we pour our hearts into it. We only put top ingredients and that can be very expensive but when people have that first bite, they know its quality," he said.

Of course, with chef John Imperial heading the kitchen, the dishes are a feast. Imperial worked for 20 years at Coffee Care, an island favorite in the '90s up to the 2000's. He has also made his rounds in top hotels on island like the Saipan World Resort in Susupe, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and Tony Seafood in Garapan. "Every dish is a product of all the things I learned over the years working in the food & beverage industry. I learned from working with top chefs and cooks over the years and I also value what the customers want or suggest and adjust," he said.

The Plumeria Steakhouse ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by 2021 Miss Marianas Savannah Lyn De Los Santos, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez, Plumeria Steakhouse owner Steve Jang, chef John Imperial, and F&B supervisor Kim Rachelle M. Aquilesca.
BEA CABRERA

In charge of customer service and entertainment in the restaurant is Food & Beverage supervisor Kim Rachelle M. Aquilesca. "I see to it our servers and staff are friendly, always ready to go the extra mile to serve our customers and feel relaxed while dining. Special at Plumeria Steakhouse is the choreographed dance our servers perform every 40 minutes," she said.

"It is special to see our regular customers look forward to it and when we feel that they want to join the dance, we encourage them. We also treat birthday celebrants [with] songs that we put together that are unique and always memorable," she added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was in attendance, last Thursday with first lady Dianne Torres, congratulated Jang on the new business venture. . "For him to open a steakhouse on island gives locals and tourists another venue to visit. …Having a new business investment here will hopefully inspire other investors to come here to the CNMI and look for business opportunities," he said.

House Speaker Edmund Sablan Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), who represents Precinct 3 where Plumeria Steakhouse is located, and Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) also welcomed Plumeria Steakhouse's entry into Saipan's food scene.

Plumeria Steakhouse is open Monday to Sunday for lunch from 11am to 2pm and dinner from 6pm to 10pm.

For more information, call (670) 233-5454 or check out Plumeria Steakhouse on Facebook.

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Administrative Assistant
Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022

Job Description:
Northern Marinas Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee wishes to recruit an Administrative Assistant to be responsible for administrative support of the NMPMG2022. The Administrative Assistant will be report directly to the CEO. Administrative Assistant is entry level role to the sports industry aimed sports management or other talent and experience in sport administration. You will need to build and maintain good relationship through your ability to deliver on time and with quality to Games Organizing Committees, other stakeholder groups such as Northern Marinas Sports Association (NMSA), Pacific Game Council (PGC) and National Federation.

Duties and Responsibilities:
Administrative Assistant must have experience organizational administration that will serve games organizing committee:
- First point of contact to provide administrative support to the NMPMG2022 events and Games Organizing Committee (GOC)
- Arrange logistics and detailed running sheets for NMPMG2022 events in conjunction with other staff and stakeholders.
- Monitor NMPMG2022 digital platforms to ensure accuracy and currency of information
- Ensure effective management of electronic files, database and other digital content
- Support CEO in development and reporting framework for NMPMG2022 events and activities
- Conduct specific research tasks as required

Administrative Assistant should possess the following essential qualities:
- You need to demonstrate Project Management experience suitable to arranging meetings or small events; or have Project Management theory and how you would practically apply it in this setting.
- Computer literacy is essential including MS Office suite along with an aptitude in learning other specific industry or commercial software.
- You need to know the principles of sports event for NMPMG2022
- You need to understand the principles of how sports competition includes National and International Federation.
- Excellent time management and organizational ability
- Ability to multitask and meet constant deadlines
- Willingness to work long hours, when necessary

Personal Attributes:
- You must have excellent verbal and written communication skills with an ability to relate to a wide range of people from different age and cultural backgrounds
- You must be capable of working within a small team or independently
- Being proactive with the ability to solve problems, work under pressure and meet deadlines is necessary to succeed in the role
- You must be reliable, have a good work ethic and be able to keep progressing things even when it's still ambiguous

Hours of Work:
This is a full-time position (36 hours weekly) with an occasional requirement to work outside of normal office hours.

Salary: $12.00 per hour (Oct. 2021-July 2022)

Language: Fluency in English; Chamorro and or Carolinian an advantage

How to Apply:
If you meet the above requirement and are interested in the position, please send a resume or curriculum vitae along with a cover letter to the following postal or email address:

POSTAL MAIL: Administrative Assistant NMPMG2022 Application
P.O. Box 502476, Saipan, MP 96950

EMAIL: vicente.babauta@gmail.com or marianassports@gmail.com

All application must be received no later than 5:00pm, September 24, 2021.

Contact Person:
Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, GOC Chairman Marco Peter
Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta

PUTI'ON TWIN HULL
NOTICE OF AUCTION/BIDDING

Year: 1984; Official No. 677731; Call Sign: WCZ5662; Service: Passenger
Hull Material: Wood; Horsepower: 530; Propulsion: Diesel
Gross Tonnage: 99 GRT; Net Tonnage: 85 NRT; Length: 83.6; Breadth: 30.0; Depth: 11.0

For more Information

Pursuant to the Stipulated Judgment in Commonwealth Ports Authority v. Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc., Civ. No. 18-0498, notice is given of the auction of the vessel owned by Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc., to be sold at auction by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Risk of loss remains with Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc. until the winning bidder's bid is approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court after which time the winning bidder shall assume ownership and responsibility for the vessel. By submitting a bid and if accepted, the winning bidder agrees to accept full risk and responsibility of the vessel once approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court, including compliance with CNMI and Federal/USCG laws and regulations.

Please contact Commonwealth Ports Authority counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859/234-5750. Email: robert.torres@rttlaw-group.com. **Minimum bid for the Puti'on Twin Hull is $100,000.00**. Any bid(s) less than the minimum bid will be rejected. Bid submissions will be closed at 4 pm on **September 23, 2021**. Bid(s) opening shall be at 4:30 p.m. on **September 24, 2021**. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offer(s). A "Puti'on Twin Hull" bid form can be obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, through its Counsel at Robert T. Torres Law Office, Chalan Kiya P.O. Box 503758 CK Saipan, MP 96950.

Bid Instruction

1. This is a private auction/bidding on behalf of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidding is conducted through the Law Office of Robert T. Torres using a written/sealed bid process. However, the Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offers including any offer not determined to be commercially reasonable. Bids may be submitted to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya, Saipan.

2. The Puti'on Twin Hull is offered for bid and sale **"As Is"** and without any warranty or guarantee as to fitness for use and each bidder is on notice to research this specialized and particular unit as a twin hull motor craft and the conditions in which it may be used in the CNMI or in other locations.

3. All sales shall be paid by Cash or Cashier's Check within three (3) calendar days of notice to the winning bidder. Personal checks/company checks are not accepted.

4. If a bid is accepted, the winning bidder shall tender the full amount upon notice and take shall be responsible for the removal of the vessel withing three (3) calendar days. Otherwise the next highest bidder shall be considered. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel the bid and resell/re-auction the unit.

5. Inspection: Any person wishing to inspect the Puti'on Twin Hull may contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to request for inspection at least two (2) days prior to inspection.

6. All bids are final.

Life & Style

White House offers Nicki Minaj call to answer vaccine Qs

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Chair of Prince Charles' charity quits amid donor scandal

LONDON (AP)—The chairman of Prince Charles' charitable foundation has resigned after reports the organization was offered a donation of more than 500,000 pounds ($692,000) from a Russian banker seeking British citizenship. Douglas Connell stepped down Wednesday after the Sunday Times alleged that Charles wrote a letter to thank the businessman, Dmitry Leus, for the offer last year. The newspaper said Charles suggested that they could meet after the pandemic. The Scottish Charity Regulator launched an investigation into the matter earlier this week. The report said the charity initially received 100,000 pounds from the Russian, but rejected the total sum after its ethics committee raised concerns about Leus' background. The allegations followed earlier claims, also reported by the Sunday Times, that the charity's chief executive, Michael Fawcett, helped a Saudi donor secure a knighthood and British citizenship after he gave a large donation.

Ex-Georgetown tennis coach to plead guilty in college scam

BOSTON (AP)—A former Georgetown University tennis coach accused of accepting more than $2 million in bribes to help kids get into the school will plead guilty in the sweeping college admissions scandal, according to court documents filed Wednesday. Gordon Ernst's decision to plead guilty comes as the first trial in the massive case that ensnared wealthy parents and athletic coaches across the country is being held in Boston's federal court. Ernst, who was scheduled to go on trial in November, agreed to admit to charges including conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, according to the court records. His attorney declined to comment on Wednesday. Prosecutors agreed to recommend a sentence of no more than four years in prison, according to the plea agreement. Ernst has promised to ask for no less than a year behind bars.

Official: Reality TV star sentenced for Ponzi scheme, fraud

ATLANTA (AP)—A former cast member on the reality television show Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta has been sentenced to more than 17 years in federal prison for conspiracy and wire fraud related to a Ponzi scheme and related charges involving a fraudulent Paycheck Protection Program loan application. U.S. District Judge Mark H. Cohen sentenced Maurice Fayne, also known as Arkansas Mo, to 17 and a half years behind bars and five years of supervised release. Fayne, 38, of Dacula, Georgia, also was ordered to pay restitution of nearly $4.5 million to the victims. Fayne pleaded guilty to the charges on May 11. Those also included charges of bank fraud and making false statements to a financial institution involving a loan application for the Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House offered Wednesday to connect Nicki Minaj with one of the Biden administration's doctors to address her questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, after the Trinidadian-born rapper's erroneous tweet alleging the vaccine causes impotence went viral.

The White House said that they've offered such calls with others concerned about the vaccine, part of an aggressive public relations campaign to beat back rampant disinformation about the vaccine's safety and effectiveness.

Minaj tweeted Wednesday that "the White House has invited me" and "yes, I'm going," but a White House official said the rapper was simply offered a call.

Minaj made headlines earlier this week when she noted in a tweet to her more than 22.6 million followers that the Met Gala required attendees to be vaccinated, and that she wouldn't get the shot until "I feel I've done enough research." She later issued a tweet sharing an unverified story about a cousin's friend in Trinidad. Minaj asserted the unidentified individual "became impotent" and "his testicles became swollen" after receiving the shot.

In this Sept. 11, 2018, file photo, Nicki Minaj attends the Oscar de la Renta show during Fashion Week in New York. The White House is offering to connect Minaj with one of the Biden administration's doctors to address her questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. The offer comes after the Trinidadian-born rapper's erroneous tweet alleging the vaccine causes impotence went viral.

PHOTO BY CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/AP, FILE

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious disease expert, dismissed the claim as misinformation during an interview Tuesday on CNN.

"There's no evidence that it happens, nor is there any mechanistic reason to imagine that it would happen," he said.

Throughout the year, the White House has struggled to counteract resistance to getting a shot, particularly among younger and more Republican demographics. The administration has pointed in particular to false or misleading information about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines as a driver of that hesitance. It has referenced a study by the Center for Countering Digital Hate, a nonprofit that studies extremism, that linked a dozen accounts to spreading the majority of vaccine disinformation on Facebook.

Prosecutors play R. Kelly tapes as government case winds down

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors, nearing the end of their case at the sex trafficking trial of R. Kelly, played recordings for a New York City jury Wednesday they say back up allegations the R&B singer abused women and girls.

In court papers, prosecutors have described tapes of a profane Kelly threatening violence against victims during recorded rants in 2008.

Jurors listened to the recording in Brooklyn federal court using headphones. There was no audio for the press and public—already restricted by the judge to an overflow courtroom as a coronavirus precaution—making it impossible to know exactly what the panel was seeing or hearing, or how it was reacting to it.

A video feed to the overflow courtroom showed Kelly not wearing the headphones that would have allowed him to listen in on the government's latest evidence against him at a trial that began Aug. 18.

Kelly, 54, has repeatedly denied accusations that behind the scenes of a 30-year career highlighted by his 1996 megahit "I Believe I Can Fly" he was a sexual predator who groomed and sexually exploited his young victims. His lawyers have portrayed the accusers as groupies seeking to take advantage of his fame.

Lennon interview to schoolboys, songs, to auction in Denmark

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Half a century ago, four Danish teenagers interviewed John Lennon for their school paper. A cassette tape with a 33-minute audio recording of the chat, which also includes an apparently unpublished song by the late Beatle, will be auctioned in Denmark later this month.

The 16-year-olds were not star-struck when they did the interview in northern Denmark on Jan. 5, 1970. At the height of the Vietnam War and the Cold War, Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono had "a message of peace, and that was what was important to us," recalled Karsten Hoejen, who made the recording on a tape recorder borrowed from the local hi-fi shop.

The tape chiefly consists of Lennon and Ono speaking about being in Denmark and world peace, Hoejen said Wednesday. Alternative societies mushroomed in Denmark from the late 1960s, attracting people from abroad, and music festivals were organized inspired by those on the Isle of Wight and Woodstock.

"Their peace message was

Advice to graduate leads to major falling-out

DEAR ABBY: I have been in my second marriage for almost 20 years. My wife came with two grown children, who each have two kids. I have tried to be the best family man I could, and a father and grandfather who treated them like they were my own.

My wife's daughter "Diana" recently disrupted everything after I gave her daughter (my granddaughter) some financial advice after she graduated from college. Diana not only went off on me, but also lied to her children about me and has shut me and my wife out of their lives. I'm crushed and trying not to lose the relationships with Diana's kids. I don't feel I did anything wrong. The advice I gave was sound and nothing a professional would disagree with. Please advise.

HURTING FROM HELPING

DEAR HURTING: You have my sympathy. This may be an unfortunate example of "no good deed goes unpunished." Because Diana refuses to discuss the matter, the breach she has created isn't fixable. If you are successful in maintaining a relationship with the grandkids, you may eventually find out what set your wife's daughter off. In the meantime, you and your poor wife must accept what has happened and do your best not to allow it to further disrupt your lives.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Like a lot of people, I'm working from home. Today I was completing a complicated procedure between calls from customers and getting conflicting instant messages from my supervisor and manager. I exclaimed a cuss word and suddenly got an IM from the manager saying I shouldn't cuss. I'm at home, in my room, using my computer and on pause so I can't receive a call from a customer, and my manager is listening to me? Was I in the wrong here?

CAUGHT IN TEXAS

DEAR CAUGHT: Yes, you were. If you did something during business hours that you wouldn't do at the office, you shouldn't have been doing it at home. (In the future, if you want to blurt out a few choice words, do it while you are well away from the microphone!)

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Unlike the rest of my family of omnivores, I have been a vegan for decades. Without fail, every time we get together and go out to eat, whoever made the reservation chooses a restaurant that serves nothing I can eat. So I end up eating just bread and a small dinner salad. I'm not asking that we go to a vegan restaurant (although I'd prefer that), just a vegan-friendly place. Advice?

HUNGRY VEGAN GUY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR VEGAN GUY: Provide your insensitive relatives with a list of restaurants to choose from that are more accommodating to your lifestyle. In California, many restaurants cater to patrons with varying needs, so this shouldn't have happened to you more than once. Nothing will change until you speak up.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

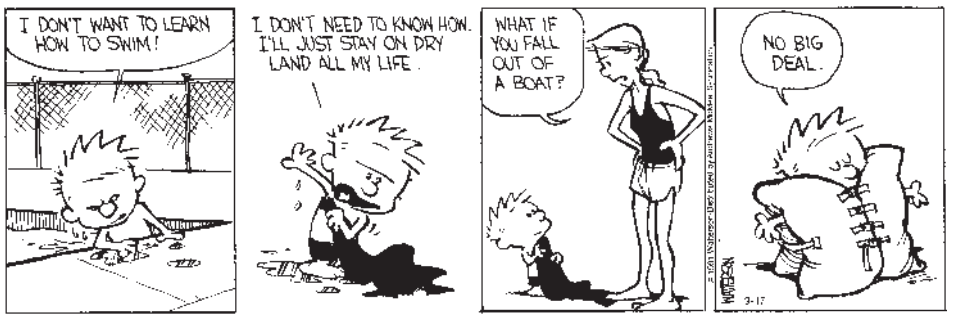
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I DON'T WANT TO LEARN HOW TO SWIM!
I DON'T NEED TO KNOW HOW. I'LL JUST STAY ON DRY LAND ALL MY LIFE.
WHAT IF YOU FALL OUT OF A BOAT?
NO BIG DEAL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THE DOOM INTENSIFIES AS WINTER GROWS NIGH.
KATY. ENOUGH.
IT'S THREE DEGREES COOLER TODAY. THAT HARDLY MEANS IT'S WINTER.
NOW DROP THE SYLVIA PLATH ROUTINE AND GO CLIMB A TREE.
MIGHT I PEN AN ODE TO DARKNESS INSTEAD?
THAT'S FINE. JUST DO IT WHILE YOU PLAY IN THE SPRINKLER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR GOALS ARE.
TRAINER
FOR INSTANCE, DO YOU WANT WASHBOARD ABS, OR BUNS OF STEEL?
I DON'T MEAN TO BE DIFFICULT, BUT COULD I GET WASHBOARD BUNS?
TRAINER

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Reggae relative
4 Trail the pack
7 "Go!"
12 H.S. math
13 Chest-beating beast
14 Agra's land
15 Springy dance
16 Avoids, as a puddle
18 Singer DiFranco
19 Actress Thompson
20 Retain
22 Salty expanse
23 Like morning grass
27 Parking place
29 Down times
31 Doppler device
34 Popular typeface
35 Rubber gaskets
37 IRS employee
38 Merlot, for one
39 Armed conflict
41 Dweeb
45 Strains
47 Pair with an air
48 Goes too far
52 Dallas sch.
53 Vatican masterpiece
54 Allow
55 Recede
56 Greedy sort
57 Snake's sound
58 Long. crosser

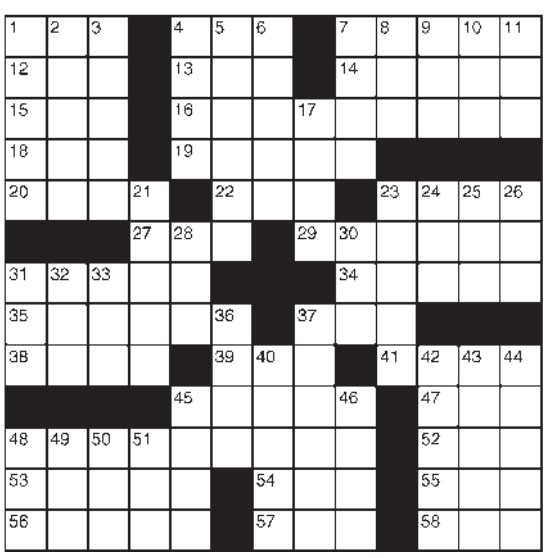
DOWN

1 Game show host Pat
2 Actor Kevin
3 Texas A&M student
4 Endure
5 Most fitting
6 Gaggle members
7 "Mona —"
8 Rock's Brian
9 Adj. modifier
10 Compete
11 Listener
17 Unpaid TV ads
21 Runway model?
23 Boxer Roberto
24 Brit. record label
25 New Deal agcy.
26 Designer monogram
28 URL ending
30 Napkin's place
31 Squabble
32 MSNBC's Melber
33 Cacophony
36 Smack a baseball
37 Thin pancakes
40 Skating jumps
42 Bygone Ford
43 Ballroom dance
44 Uncertainty
45 Despot
46 Bygone fliers
48 Choose
49 By way of
50 "A mouse!"
51 Hwy.

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	V	A	■	E	A	S	T	■	B	I	T	S
L	I	C	■	S	N	O	W	■	L	O	O	T
L	A	V	A	T	O	R	Y	■	O	T	O	E
■	■	I	R	E	■	E	L	E	G	A	N	T
G	O	S	P	E	L	■	A	N	G	■	■	■
A	P	O	■	M	A	S	■	D	E	T	E	R
L	U	R	K	■	X	Y	Z	■	D	O	T	E
A	S	Y	C	T	■	L	A	D	■	Y	R	S
■	■	■	Y	F	S	■	C	O	R	S	F	T
O	N	T	R	E	N	D	■	C	L	T	■	■
K	I	W	I	■	A	U	D	I	T	O	R	Y
A	K	I	N	■	R	E	A	■	R	O	O	■
Y	C	G	G	■	C	L	S	C	■	Y	C	N

Yesterday's answer 9-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patrick Mahomes, 26; Danielle Brooks, 32; Doug E. Fresh, 55; Kyle Chandler, 56.

Happy Birthday: Live, learn and go about your business. Hesitation will stand between you and victory. Build confidence, gain respect and act. Size up and seize the moment, and you will not disappoint or be disappointed. Look at life as a chance to discover and grow mentally and emotionally. Choose to stop dreaming and start doing, and embrace the future with optimism. Your numbers are 3, 10, 22, 27, 31, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pull strings, discuss your plans with someone who helps and believes in you, and shoot for the stars. Your insight, knowledge and ability to articulate what you want will help you present a convincing and appealing offer. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take a step back, recalculate your next few steps and complete your journey. Precision is everything when you are trying to establish your position. Stay focused on your strengths, keep your costs low and aim high. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Fine-tune your skills. Focus on what you want to accomplish. You'll get the recognition and accolades you desire. Having a plan in place will build confidence and the bravado necessary to outdo anyone who tries to compete with you. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Let your creative imagination wander, and you'll come up with a brilliant idea that will set you apart from any competition you encounter. Embrace change instead of running from it, and you will find a unique path to success and happiness. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Having a plan in place will help you avoid mistakes. Don't allow outside influences to interfere with your process. Deal with matters personally to eliminate regret. Take better care of your home, family and physical well-being. Simplicity and moderation are favored. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Settle in, take care of business and don't stop until you are satisfied with what transpires. Your discipline and desire to get ahead will encourage you to do your very best and to promote what you set out to accomplish. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Finish what you start. A proactive approach will signal others that you are serious about what you are trying to accomplish. Refuse to let physical restrictions block your progress. Ask for help, and keep the momentum flowing. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Reevaluate the past and present before you lunge into the future. Having a handle on what's transpired will lead to the insight to help you overcome making the same mistake twice. Put a well-thought-out plan in place, then proceed. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll have the upper hand if you are organized and innovative in the way you approach your dreams, hopes and wishes. A positive attitude and a staunch approach will ensure that you keep anyone who tries to interfere at a distance. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Consistency will be your ticket to success. Stick to the rules and regulations, and don't take risks that can jeopardize your health or reputation. A physical change will leave you feeling vulnerable if you don't think before you act. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Tunnel vision will help you overcome temptation and interference. Know what you want, and don't let up until you reach your goal. Look over your options, and stay centered and focused on what's of utmost importance. Success will be yours. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Consider your relationship with others, and you'll get an inside view of what's required to get what you want. You may not welcome a change, but the results you achieve will surprise you. Romance is featured, and socializing looks promising. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, intelligent and convincing. You are steadfast and ambitious.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					1		2	
9					6	5		
2	7						6	
8						4		
	9			5			3	
		6						1
	1						5	3
		7	2					6
	3		7					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	4	1	3	6	8	2	9
3	9	1	2	8	4	5	6	7
6	8	2	7	9	5	4	3	1
2	3	7	8	5	9	6	1	4
4	1	8	6	2	3	7	9	5
9	6	5	4	1	7	3	8	2
5	4	3	9	6	2	1	7	8
1	2	6	5	7	8	9	4	3
8	7	9	3	4	1	2	5	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BUILDING WAGON WHEELS Solution: 6 letters

H	R	C	J	L	A	T	E	M	A	R	K	I	N	G
U	F	I	L	L	E	R	S	G	N	I	W	A	R	D
B	G	E	M	A	U	S	T	U	N	O	D	E	O	G
S	T	U	C	S	M	E	A	C	O	I	B	W	N	N
S	L	I	A	N	M	P	I	D	A	M	E	I	G	O
S	T	E	P	P	E	R	N	M	U	L	T	D	N	I
E	M	T	L	D	O	R	E	L	S	T	R	T	I	T
G	U	A	A	U	E	T	E	V	I	U	I	H	C	C
D	T	L	T	B	E	G	A	F	O	C	M	S	A	E
E	T	E	G	R	L	R	R	S	M	D	N	I	P	S
C	R	R	E	T	N	E	C	E	T	U	N	E	S	S
A	X	L	E	I	O	L	I	N	E	U	C	U	P	S
R	O	D	S	D	E	S	I	G	N	S	B	R	O	O
T	M	H	O	L	E	S	D	N	I	R	G	N	I	R
Y	A	L	P	S	I	D	R	A	O	B	D	R	A	C

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Axle, Cardboard, Center, Circumference, Clamp, Cross Section, Cuts, Degrees, Designs, Diameter, Display, Dowels, Drawing, Edge, Filler, Fitting, Glue, Grind, Holes, Hubs, Jigs, Line, Lumber, Marking, Measure, Metal, Nails, Nuts, Over, Pencil, Rims, Ring, Rods, Round, Router, Spacing, Spin, Stain, Step, Stub, Table, Template, Trace, Trim, Varnish, Width, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Bless You

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Lakers add Fizdale, Lucas III to Vogel's coaching staff

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former Knicks head coach David Fizdale has joined his hometown Los Angeles Lakers as the lead assistant coach on Frank Vogel's staff.

The Lakers also hired John Lucas III as an assistant coach and named Roger Sancho their head athletic trainer Wednesday.

Fizdale was the Memphis Grizzlies' head coach for 101 games from May 2016 until November 2017, leading them to the playoffs in his only full season. He took the top job with New York in May 2018, but was fired in December 2019 after New York got off to a 4-18 start.

Before taking over the Grizzlies, Fizdale was an assistant coach for 13 seasons at Miami, Atlanta and Golden State.

Fizdale, who was born and raised in Los Angeles, fills the lead assistant vacancy created on the Lakers' staff in June when Jason Kidd left to become the Dallas Mavericks' head coach.

In this Oct. 7, 2019, file photo, New York Knicks coach David Fizdale gestures during the first half of the team's NBA preseason basketball game against the Washington Wizards in Washington. AP

Lucas played eight NBA seasons for six teams. He was a player development coach with the Minnesota Timberwolves from 2017-19.

Lucas will take over some of the responsibilities left behind by Lionel Hollins' decision to leave the Lakers' staff when they couldn't agree on a new contract, and by Miles Simon's promotion to head coach of the G League's South Bay Lakers.

Phil Handy, Mike Penberthy and Quinton Crawford return on Vogel's staff.

The Lakers didn't renew the contract of head athletic trainer Nina Hsieh in June after the club experienced significant injury problems throughout last season. Their defense of their 2020 championship ended with a first-round loss to the Phoenix Suns.

LeBron James, Anthony Davis, Alex Caruso, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and other Lakers were sidelined or significantly limited by injuries throughout the second half of the season.

Sancho spent the past seven seasons with the Golden State Warriors, including the last five as an assistant athletic trainer.

Sancho will have the potentially daunting job of maintaining the health of a roster with at least 10 players who are 32 years old or older, along with the oft-injured Davis.

The Lakers also promoted Ed Streit to head strength and conditioning coach.

Aaron Gordon, Nuggets agree to 4-year, $92M extension

DENVER (AP)—Forward Aaron Gordon and the Denver Nuggets have agreed on a four-year, $92 million contract extension.

His agent, Calvin Andrews, confirmed the contract to The Associated Press on Tuesday. The deal contains a player option for Gordon for the '25-26 season.

Gordon was acquired by the Nuggets in a trade deadline deal last March with Orlando to bolster a lineup that included league MVP Nikola Jokic, point guard Jamal Murray and sharpshooter Michael Porter Jr. Gordon was counted on even more when Murray suffered a torn ACL on April 12 at Golden State.

In this June 3, 2021, file photo, Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon looks to pass against the Portland Trail Blazers during the first half of Game 6 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series in Portland, Ore. AP

Gordon, who turns 26 on Thursday, averaged 10.2 points and 4.7 rebounds in 25 games with Denver. In the postseason, he raised his production to 11.1 points and 5.4 rebounds as the Nuggets made it to the second round before being swept by the Phoenix Suns.

Gordon's deal was first reported by The Athletic.

This will be Gordon's eighth season in the NBA after being picked No. 4 overall by the Magic in the 2014 NBA draft.

Denver locked up Jokic to a five-year deal in '18 and Murray in '19. The next big deal could be for Porter, a long-range threat who averaged 19 points last season.

Bucks hire Lisa Byington as TV play-by-play broadcaster

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Lisa Byington is making history as the Milwaukee Bucks' new play-by-play voice on their television broadcasts.

The Bucks announced the hiring Wednesday and said Byington is the first woman to work as a full-time television play-by-play announcer for any major men's professional sports team.

Byington replaces Jim Paschke, who retired after 35 seasons as the team's main television play-by-play broadcaster.

"I understand the groundbreaking nature of this hire, and I appreciate the fact that during this process that aspect was addressed, but never made a primary focus," Byington said in a statement released by the team. "In fact, I applaud the Bucks for taking the first steps toward making hires like this more of the norm in the NBA. Because it's time."

Earlier this year, Byington became the first female play-by-play broadcaster for the NCAA men's basketball tournament. She was a men's and women's soccer play-by-play announcer for NBC Sports in the 2021 Olympics and also did play-by-play for the Women's World Cup on Fox in 2019.

The Bucks' broadcast crew also includes Marques Johnson and Steve Novak as analysts and Zora Stephenson as a sideline reporter. Last season, Stephenson became the first woman to work as a play-by-play announcer for the Bucks when she filled in for Paschke for one game.

Byington worked as a sideline reporter for the NCAA men's basketball tournament on CBS and Turner Sports from 2017-19. She also has been a play-by-play broadcaster on NBA and WNBA games.

She became the first female play-by-play broadcaster for a Big Ten Network college football game in 2017.

Byington has broadcast games for FOX Sports, FS1, Big Ten Network, CBS, Turner Sports, Pac-12 Network, ESPN and the SEC Network in both play-by-play and reporter roles. She played basketball and soccer while attending Northwestern University.

Bichette, Ray power Blue Jays to 6-3 win over Rays

TORONTO (AP)—Bo Bichette homered and drove in five runs, Robbie Ray fanned 13 over seven innings to claim the major league strikeout lead and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Tampa Bay Rays 6-3 Wednesday.

Vladimr Guerrero Jr. doubled twice and scored twice, and Teoscar Hernández added an RBI single. The Blue Jays improved to 13-2 in September and are in a virtual tie with Boston and the New York Yanklees for the two AL wild-card spots.

Tampa Bay lost for the fifth time in seven games. The AL East leaders are 6-8 in September after going 21-6 in August. Mike Zunino hit his 30th homer and Brett Phillips also connected.

Ray (12-5) allowed one run and four hits to win his fourth straight decision. The lefthander is 4-0 with a 1.80 ERA and 91 strikeouts since his last loss, July 21 against Boston. Jordan Romano pitched the ninth for his 18th save.

Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Robbie Ray pitches in the first inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays in Toronto on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021. AP

Padres 9, Giants 6

In San Francisco, Fernando Tatis Jr. matched his career high with four hits, Jurickson Profar homered and San Diego snapped a five-game skid, holding off San Francisco and ending the Giants' nine-game winning streak.

Adam Frazier got four hits and Manny Machado doubled twice for the Padres, who trail St. Louis by one game for the second NL wild-card spot.

San Francisco had its lead in the NL West cut to 1 1/2 games by the Los Angeles Dodgers, with both teams already assured playoff spots. The majors-best Giants (95-51) held the club's longest winning streak since a 10-game run in 2004.

The Giants hit four solo homers: pinch-hitter Thairo Estrada in the third, Kris Bryant in the sixth, then late lineup addition Steven Duggar and Brandon Belt each connected in the seventh.

Red Sox 9, Mariners 4, 10 innings

In Seattle, Kyle Schwarber and Christian Vazquez drove in two runs apiece in the 10th inning, and Boston beat Seattle to keep pace in the AL wild-card race.

Designated runner Jack Lopez scored on Tom Murphy's passed ball to start the scoring in the six-run 10th to break open a 3-3 game. J.D. Martinez, Schwarber and Vazquez added run-scoring hits as Boston beat the Mariners for the second day in a row.

The Red Sox, Toronto and the New York Yankees remained in a virtual tie for the two AL wild-card spots. Seattle if four games behind the three.

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 0

In Los Angeles, Julio Urías earned his major league-leading 18th victory, Gavin Lux singled in the go-ahead run in the fourth, and Los Angeles completed a 6-0 homestand with a win over Arizona.

The Dodgers pounded out 14 hits in winning their sixth straight overall and ninth in a row at home, where they are 52-23, tops in the majors.

Lux went 2 for 4 and drove in two runs. Max Muncy went 2 for 5, drove in a run and scored another.

Rockies 3, Braves 2, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Raimel Tapia hit a tiebreaking single off A.J. Minter in the 10th inning, scoring Colton Welker from third base and lifting Colorado over Atlanta.

Atlanta's NL East lead was trimmed to 3½ games over Philadelphia as the Braves attempt to win the division for the fourth straight year. Colorado was 28 games back in the NL West.

Robert Stephenson earned his first save in two chances in the bottom of the 10th.

Tigers 4, Brewers 1

In Detroit, Dustin Garneau homered and drove in two runs, rookie Matt Manning combined with the bullpen on a three-hitter and Detroit beat Milwaukee to complete a two-game sweep.

Milwaukee's magic number to clinch the NL Central remained at five after they dropped a pair to the Tigers following a five-game winning streak.

Manning (4-6) gave up a run on two hits and struck out a career-high six over six innings in his 15th start. Michael Fulmer recorded four strikeouts during the last two innings while notching his ninth save.

Yankees 4, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Brett Gardner blooped a two-run single in the ninth inning that was set up by a double steal, and New York beat Baltimore for its third straight win.

Gio Urshela launched a two-run homer for the Yankees, who kept pace with Toronto and Boston atop the AL wild-card standings as all three teams won.

Austin Hays homered twice for the Orioles, including a two-out, two-run drive in the eighth off Chad Green for a 3-2 lead.

Orioles reliever Tyler Wells (2-3) walked Luke Voit to begin the ninth and Gleyber Torres followed with a single. Pinch-runner Tyler Wade and Torres pulled off a double steal with one out. Gardner followed with a single to center that scored both runs.

Pirates 5, Reds 4

In Pittsburgh, Wilmer Difo scored on a groundout from Colin Moran with one out in the ninth inning, and Pittsburgh handed Cincinnati its seventh loss in nine games.

Cincinnati slipped 1 1/2 games behind St. Louis Cardinals for the NL's second wild card.

Chris Stratton (6-1) pitched a perfect ninth for the Pirates.

After falling behind by two in the first, Pittsburgh took the lead with three runs in the third.

Yoshi Tsutsugo drove in Ke'Bryan Hayes on a double to left and advanced to third on a bobble from Schrock. Bryan Reynolds tripled down the right-field line, scoring Tsutsugo, and went home on Moran's sacrifice fly that put Pittsburgh up 3-2.

Cardinals 11, Mets 4

In New York, Paul Goldschmidt and Nolan Arenado each hit one of St. Louis' four homers, and the Cardinals flashed some fantastic outfield defense in beating New York for their fifth straight victory.

Harrison Bader homered, drove in three runs and made a timely grab at the center-field fence to help Jon Lester improve to 9-1 against the Mets. Edmundo Sosa also went deep and Goldschmidt had three hits as the Cardinals completed a three-game sweep by winning their seventh in eight games.

St. Louis moved 1 1/2 games ahead of the Reds for the second NL wild card .The Cardinals began the day one game ahead of San Diego, which started later in San Francisco.

Pete Alonso and Kevin Pillar homered for the fading Mets, who look finished in the pennant race with 15 games to go. They dropped five games behind St. Louis, with three teams in between.

Tyler O'Neill laced a two-run double in a five-run first inning against rookie Tylor Megill (3-5).

Athletics 12, Royals 10

In Kansas City, Mo., Matt Olson hit a two-run homer, Josh Harrison drove in three runs and Elvis Andrus had four hits as Oakland held on through a nervy ninth inning.

The A's ended a three-game skid and remained 3 1/2 games back of Toronto, Boston and New York in the AL wild-card chase.

Oakland's Sean Manaea (10-9) allowed five runs in five innings. And the Athletics' beleaguered bullpen coughed a run in the seventh, three more in the eighth and loaded the bases with no outs in the ninth before Andrew Chafin (four saves) finally managed to lock down the win.

Mark Canha and Tony Kemp also drove in runs off Carlos Hernandez (6-2) and the beat up Kansas City bullpen.

Salvador Perez hit his 44th homer for Kansas City, moving into a tie with Shohei Ohtani and within one of big league leader Vladimir Guerrero Jr. Andrew Benintendi went 5 for 5 and drove in four runs for the Royals.

Phillies 6, Cubs 5

In Philadelphia, Andrew Knapp scored on a passed ball in the ninth inning to bolster Philadelphia's tenuous playoff push with a win over Chicago.

The Phillies bullpen blew it in the late innings. Robinson Chirinos hit a two-run homer off Jose Alvarado that tied it 4-all in the eighth. Matt Duffy hit a solo shot off Ian Kennedy (2-1) in the ninth and tied it at 5.

J.T. Realmuto homered in the eighth inning for the Phillies.

Knapp led off the ninth with a single off Trevor Megill (1-2) and advanced to third on a sacrifice and a groundout. Chirinos couldn't get a handle on Megill's knuckle-curve and Knapp scooted home with the winning run.

Philadelphia's win, coupled with Atlanta's loss to Colorado, moved the Phillies 3 1/2 games behind the Braves in the NL East. The Phils are three games behind St. Louis in the wild-card race.

Indians 12, Twins 3

In Minnesota, Cal Quantrill turned in a strong start, and Oscar Mercado, Bobby Bradley and Franmil Reyes homered to help Cleveland rout Minnesota.

José Ramírez and Myles Straw each had three of Cleveland's 14 hits, and Mercado and Bradley each drove in three runs. Ramírez had two RBIs to reach 90 for the season for the Indians.

Miguel Sanó had the only two hits for Minnesota against Quantrill (6-3), including a three-run homer in the seventh.

Quantrill retired 13 straight batters at one point and finished 6 2/3 innings with three walks and four strikeouts.

Twins starter Griffin Jax (3-4) was done in by a four-run fifth.

Astros 7, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Jake Meyers and Marwin Gonzalez hit consecutive homers in a three-run second inning, Kyle Tucker homered among his three hits, and Jose Urquidy allowed one run and two hits in six innings as Houston beat Texas.

Urquidy (7-3) struck out six and walked one in beating Texas for third time in four career starts, helping the AL West-leading Astros win for the third time in four games.

Chas McCormick hit a two-run single and Yordan Alvarez had an RBI double.

Brock Holt scored Texas' first run in the third inning on a groundout after hitting his first triple since Aug. 2019. Willie Calhoun went 2 for 4, accounting for half of the Rangers' hits.

Angels 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Brandon Marsh hit a tiebreaking solo homer off Michael Kopech in the eighth inning, and Los Angeles beat Chicago.

Marsh drove a 101 mph, full-count fastball from Kopech (4-3) over the wall in left-center for his second homer and finished with three hits and two runs scored.

Mike Mayers (5-5) struck out the side in the seventh for the win. Raisel Iglesias finished for his 32nd save.

Yoán Moncada homered for AL Central-leading Chicago, which had won three of four.

Marlins 8, Nationals 6

In Washington, Jesus Sanchez's second two-run homer of the day capped a four-run ninth inning and Miami rallied past Washington.

After an RBI single by Miguel Rojas and fielder's-choice groundout by Lewin Diaz tied the score, Sanchez hit the first pitch he saw from Kyle Finnegan (5-7) to left center for his 12th homer of the season.

Sanchez also hit a two-run homer in the sixth for Miami's first runs. Bryan De La Cruz homered in the eighth for the Marlins, who took two of three from Washington.

Paul Campbell (2-3), the seventh Miami pitcher, worked the eighth and Dylan Floro pitched a perfect ninth—the only 1-2-3 inning for Marlins pitchers in the game—for his 12th save.

PSS/NMA XC qualifier at Ladder Beach tomorrow

Run Saipan will be hosting the second PSS/NMA Cross Country Qualifier at Ladder Beach tomorrow, Sept. 18.

Registration will start at 6am and the elementary school race will begin at 6:30am, followed by the middle school and high school divisions. The courses will begin and end at the Ladder beach road with the high school division looping down to Obyan and then back. As all cross country events, elementary school is one mile, middle school is 2 miles and high school is a 5K race.

Run Saipan is also partnering with Salty Skin Pacific to offer an open division in celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day. Participants will run down the back road connecting Ladder Beach and Obyan Beach where a representative from Salty Skin Pacific will hand them a garbage bag to clean up the road on the way back. "Once runners turn in their garbage bags, there will be a lottery for some great prizes," said Edward Dela Cruz Jr., president of Run Saipan. On the beach side, Saipan International School will also help out by having its community cleanup Ladder Beach itself.

"It is these kind of community partnerships that will help us grow athletics and increase cardiovascular health in the CNMI," said Nick Gross, the PSS athletic director. "By working with the federations and the community at large, we have the chance to build something really special here."

Ron Snyder, NMA coach and this year's cross country meet director, added, "We are all overwhelmed at how the sport has developed over the last few years. SIS hosted one of the qualifiers in 2019 but this year Saipan International School, Run Saipan, Kagman High School and Northern Marianas Athletics are all hosting an event."

The Public School System has partnered with Northern Marianas Athletics, the governing body of athletics in the CNMI, to organize track and field as well as cross country events in the 2021-22 school year. ***(PR)***

Team CNMI and RNV Construction players in action Wednesday night in the 2021 Island-wide Men's BudLight Basketball League at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team CNMI levels it record to 3-3

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Team CNMI reached the .500 mark at 3-3 in the win-loss standings after beating RNV Construction, 76-63, Wednesday night in the 2021 Island-wide Men's BudLight Basketball League at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Louise Maligson and Dennis Borja gave CNMI a rip-roaring start in the opener, scoring 6 points apiece as they took a 23-14 spread heading into the second quarter.

Jhello Bungabong, however, rallied RNV in the next 10 minutes after scorching the hoop with 10 of his 12 total points in the second quarter as CNMI only led by a deuce, 39-37, at the half.

Dexter Bacuyag took over the scoring reins for RNV in the third as both teams exchanged leads in the quarter. With Bacuyag tossing 8 of his 11 total points in the third, RNV wrestled the lead away from CNMI, 53-52, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

That's when CNMI got a big boost from Anthony Borja as the sharpshooter helped his team finally get some distance from RNV. Borja fired 11 of his team-high 21 points in the final 10 minutes to lead CNMI to the baker's dozen victory.

Maligson and Dennis Borja ably backed up Anthony Borja with 20 and 16 markers, respectively, while Bungabong and Bacuyag scored 12 and 11 points in the loss, which was RNV's sixth in seven games.

In the nightcap, SMA Flyers nipped Ko'Bees, 48-44, to raise its record to 2-4, while keeping Ko'Been second to the last in the cellar at 1-6.

In was nip-and-tuck almost the entire game before SMA Flyers finally was able to get the upper hand in the dogfight thanks to Janlery Doria scoring 6 of his team-high 18 points in the fourth quarter. Rico Canlas ably supported Doria in the win with his 12 points, while Ko'Bees was led by the 18 markers of Isaac Stanley.

First Game

Team CNMI 76 – A. Borja 21, Maligson 20, D. Borja 16, Lizama 7, Manansala 3, Rutor 3, E. Borja 2, Monkeya 2, Santos 2.

RNV 63 – Bungabong 12, Bacuyag 11, Albano 11, Borca 8, Villacrusis 5, Laoyon 4, Gorpuz 2, Adupe 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-14, 39-37, 52-53, 76-63.

Second Game

SMA Flyers 48 – Jan. Doria 30, Canlas 12, Villagracia 5, Opanda 2, Cajilla 2, Olivar 2, J. Doria 2, E. Lagunay 2, Lagunay 1.

Ko'Bees 44 – Stanley 18, Jay 14, Miklo 6, Chino 3, Harpol 2, Sapo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-7, 20-22, 32-34, 48-44.

International Day of University Sports set for Sept. 20

The Northern Mariana Islands College Sport will be holding the International Day of University Sports on Monday, Sept. 20 at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The annual celebration, which started in 2016, is the brainchild of the International University Sports Federation and endorsed by the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization to promote sports, health and wellness, and community engagement among college students and other stakeholders.

"NMICS in association with FISU, NMSA, and NMC will be hosting its second annual International Day of University Sports celebration alongside over 100 other countries. We will have soccer, volleyball, football ball toss, and other sports. The goal is to get as many college students participating in sports as possible," said Denis Myers, who leads NMI's FISU program and is the health and physical education instructor at the NMC.

The event will run from 4pm to 6pm with the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, NMC Volleyball Club, and Saipan Ultimate Frisbee assisting in the activities.

Meanwhile, the Oleai track oval will be closed for public use on Monday from 3pm onwards to give way to the International Day of University Sports event. ***(PR)***

GIRLS

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wood Middle School 2 in the fourth game of the scheduled six-game set.

In the fifth game, SCS scored its second victory in as many games after they walloped Tanapag Middle School, 10-2. Hilah Bacani top-scored for SCS with 8 points with the other 2 points courtesy of Sheryne Yang. Tanapag's 2 points actually came from an SCS player shooting on their own goal.

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School finally saw court time in the sixth and final game of the day and they joined SCS on top of the standings after an 18-2 victory over Hopwood 1. Tenaesha Diaz and Maya Rebuenog shared scoring honors for the Napu Riders in the win with 8 markers apiece.

Action in the middle school girls league resumes today with Dandan taking on GCA and Chacha dueling Hopwood 2 in the 4:30pm first game. The 5:15pm second games will then feature GCA vs SCS and FMS vs Dandan. The 6pm matches will have Hopwood 1 facing Chacha and Mount Carmel squaring off against Tanapag.

The IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League is being ran by the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation after signing a memorandum of agreement with the CNMI Public School System. It's part of its grassroots program to further develop the sport of basketball in the CNMI.

"We are excited to start the interscholastic basketball season and see our students from elementary to high school showcase their skills and play for school pride. We also commend the PSS leadership for their commitment to keep basketball in their interscholastic program," NMIBF James Lee was earlier quoted regarding the MOA with PSS.

SBL

From Page 24

prepare for the Pacific Mini Games in 2022. We hope to see the Pacific's best baseball players at the meeting on Oct. 2," he said.

While he laments the scrapping of the 2021 season of the SBL, Santos said the CNMI must continue to do its due diligence in preparing to field its best baseball team for the Mini Games next year.

"No SBL season until next year. The renovation of the field will soon begin. No one is happy about it but it's beyond our control. We've all missed the game we love so much—baseball! For reasons beyond our control the SBL has not been able to organize a baseball season. But we need to get organized and start getting our competitive baseball juices flowing," he added.

In addition, SBL is also actively searching for a team manager and coaches for the CNMI National Baseball Team.

If you believe you have the skillset and experience to bring home the gold medal at next year's Pacific Mini Games, contact Mark Flores at 285-1905 or Dave Attao at 789-1771.

ROBERT

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"You must attend a seminar, do a lot of training, and pass the physical fitness from the national federation," he said.

Aside from serving as a referee, Tamondong is also proud to have won accolades as a runner and is also an avid cyclist after retiring from his favorite sport of basketball.

"I changed my sports to running and cycling. When I first joined a half marathon I got third place in the 50-and-over category. The following year, I also finished third again," he said.

When asked what he'll miss most about life on Saipan, Tamondong said: "What I will miss most are my friends here on Saipan."

Lakers add Fizdale, Lucas III to Vogel's coaching staff

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Girls middle school hoops gets going

Saipan Community School's Hilah Bacani dribbles away from the defense of Tanapag Middle School players during their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League unfurled Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium with six teams logging easy victories.

In the first game, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School got a walkover win over Chacha Middle School following a last-minute pullout from the latter.

Saipan Community School then won its debut after blanking Hopwood Middle School 1, 28-0, in the second game. The Lady Tsunamis were led by the 8 points apiece of Sheryne Yang and Mickaella Yang.

The third game of the day then saw Dandan Middle School nearly duplicate SCS' feat by thoroughly dominating Mount Carmel School, 18-4. Priscilla Tomokane paced the Tottots with 10 points, while Shaenna Yamada chipped in 8 of her own.

Azriel Fatialofa then scored a season-high 22 points in Grace Christian Academy's 34-7 route of Hop-

See GIRLS on Page 23

Robert Tamondong bids Saipan adieu

By MARK RABAGO
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Basketball referee Robert Tamondong will leave the CNMI today after calling the islands his second home for 30 years.

The 59-year-old from Pangasinan, Philippines first arrived in the Commonwealth in 1991 and originally worked for the Chamorro House Restaurant.

Tamondong, a longtime accountant at Herman's Bakery, said he is leaving Saipan for greener pastures in neighboring Guam.

Before donning the black and white stripes of basketball's arbiter, Tamondong actually was a sweet-shooting speedy point guard who won championships in a handful of leagues on island.

"My favorite team was Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense. We had a great run before, especially when we got that rare three-peat. I really can't count how many championship I won as a player," he said.

Unfortunately, his basketball career on island was cut short by a knee injury.

"I decided to become a referee after I ruptured my left knee cap during a game. I've gone through rehab, hard training, and attempted to come back, but unfortunately, I couldn't get myself back to the fitness level I want. That's the time I decided to quit and become a referee," he said.

Basketball referee Robert Tamondong, center, is bidding the CNMI adieu today after making the islands his second home since 1991. MARK RABAGO

That was 2009 and Tamondong said through the years he has a lot of fond memories being the 11th, 12th, and sometimes even the 13th man on the basketball court as a referee.

"The most memorable game I officiated was Micronesian Basketball Tournament that was held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium maybe in 2013. I officiated the championship game between Guam and Palau. It was such a good experience and it gave me confidence to officiate at the next and higher level," he said.

Tamondong also volunteered that being a referee is not an easy job and entails you to have thick skin as not everyone will agree with your calls.

"If you can't control the game, most likely fights will occur," he said.

Being a top-level referee also needs a lot of training and a high level of physical fitness.

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SBL looking for national players

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The Saipan Baseball League finally has a start date for its training sessions for the CNMI National Baseball Team that will carry the Commonwealth's colors in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games set for June 2022.

Santos

SBL president Jay Santos said there will be a mandatory meeting for players interested in trying out for the national team on Oct. 2 at 10am at the Northern Marianas Sports Association conference room.

"The SBL is looking for a few good men to begin fall training and conditioning to

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